



ハ ン ド レ ッ ド

2

歌姫のラブソング

Hundred: Love songs of Diva

[h'ndred]

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大熊猫介 (ニトロプラス)

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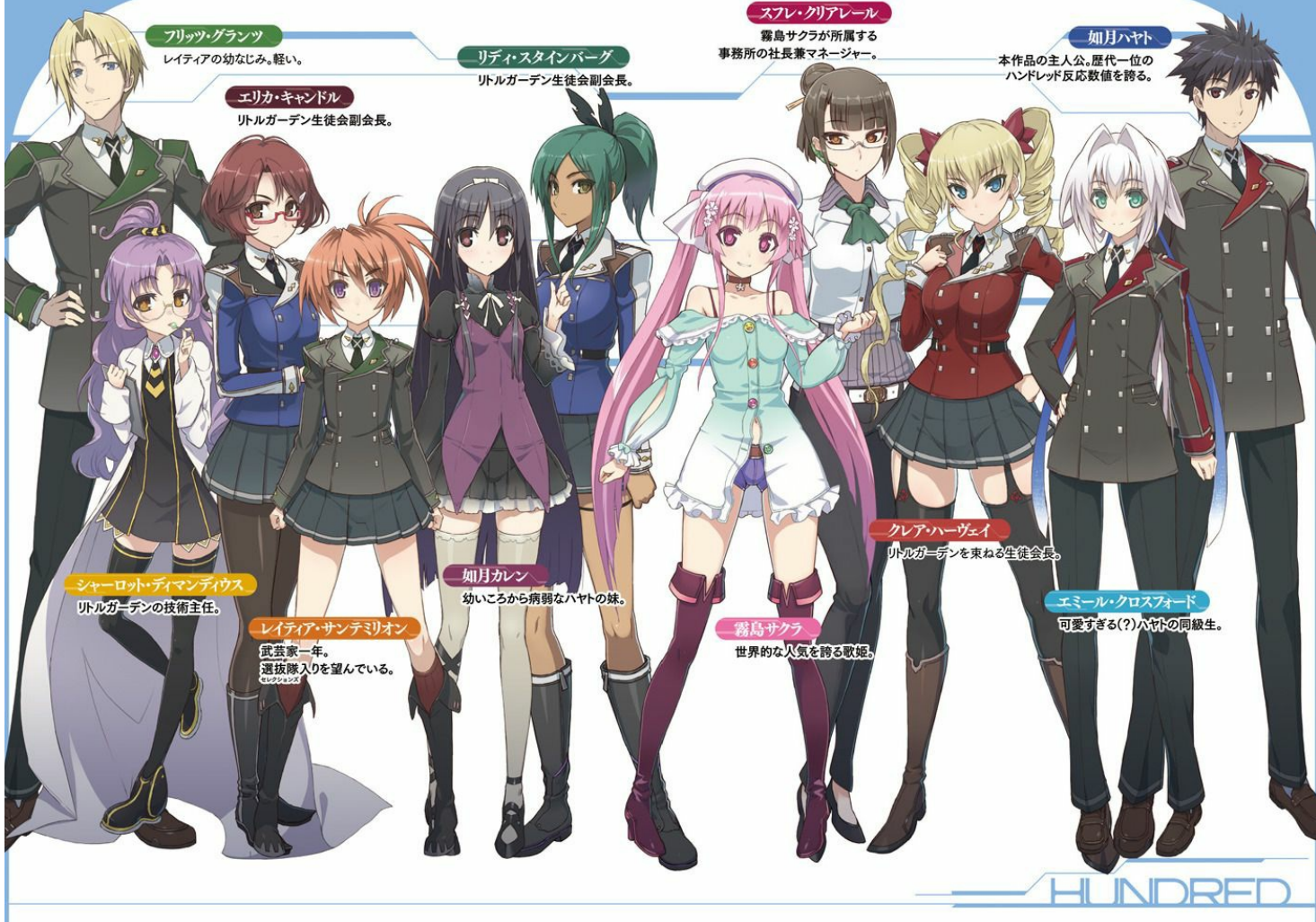
Hundred
vol.2: Love Songs of Diva

by Jun Misaki

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目に映るのはお風呂の床にお尻をつき、
股をM字のように開いたサクラの姿で……。
思っていた以上に、いや、かなり女性らしい
身体つきにハヤトの心音が加速する。

「ズンズン……ゴクリ」

「うん、痛い」

ん





Prologue

A week has passed since the Savage attacked the Kingdom of Gudenburg in the territory of Britannia.

The children in the surroundings, all of them, while sobbing, are calling their *dad, mom*, and those who are no longer in this world.

It's the same for me.

I lost my relative due to the attack of the Savage. I was holding a stuffed bear in my arms as I was sitting on my knees and thighs at a corner of the institution where the children who became orphans were received; I was shedding tears, calling out for my mom.

I know that I'll never see her again.

My mother died protecting me from the falling debris.

Although I was still young, I was aware about 「Death」.

Still, I talked with my mom a lot of times to escape from this painful and difficult reality.

With that, I can remember the smiling face of my mom, and I can be happy even if it's just for a moment.

But, loneliness came right away....

I, I want to speak with my mom again.

Tears passed down my cheeks.

When I went through that again, I heard voices saying to me that I have to be strong from now on.

Encouraging me in circle, it belonged to small children.

While looking at that situation, I felt envious.

I didn't have a partner with whom I could comfort myself, I didn't have someone with whom I could swear that we will do our best together in order to keep on living.

On the contrary, I didn't know anyone in this country.

I just came to Gudenburg, accompanying my mom who was a pianist, when the attack of the Savage occurred.

But, in that loneliness, there was a person who called out to me.

– Would you like to talk about anything, if it's okay with you? You seemed to don't have any acquaintances here, and we have time.

I raised my face, I was surprised.

The color of the boy's hair reflected in my eyes, and his slightly yellowish skin color are from the birthplace of my mother, his origin was the same as those who are born and raised in the Empire of Yamato.

And the boy was leading by the hand a girl that seemed to have the same age as me. Her hair color is the same, their features are similar.

When thinking that they might be brother and sister, the boy introduced the girl.

– She is my little sister Karen. Come Karen, say hi.

However, the girl introduced as Karen, as she was scared, kept hiding behind the boy and didn't try to come out.

Even with the boy ahead of her telling her to come out, she shakes her head to the left and right, she won't respond.

While showing an exasperated expression looking her behavior, the boy turned once again to me.

– I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do with her fear of strangers. If you don't mind, could you tell me your name?

– It's Sakura.

I answered.

– So, it's Sakura, that means you also born in Yamato? But I can't see that...

My hair and skin color are different from Asian people, so it's natural for him to think so.

– My dad is from Rasiya, and my mom from Yamato, therefore...

At the same I say that, my mom's smile crossed my mind, I unexpectedly was moved to tears.

– Ah, that... I'm sorry.... The situation isn't the best to talk about that now.

The boy, who showed a panicked behavior, started to feel for something in the bag that he had in one of his hands.

– Is there something you like? If there's something you want, I'll do anything.

– ...my mom...

Even though a lot of sweets came out from the bag, I said so.

I wasn't trying to be unkind to the boy.

Honestly, that was the word that popped into my head.

Naturally, the boy has a troubled look.

– Umm, is there something else?

– Songs.

That was the next thing that crossed my mind.

– ...songs?

I nodded.

– Songs you say, then you mean to sing a song. What kind of song?

– A song that my mom sang. At sad times, at painful times, my mother sang a song.

– Then, sing that song. If we know it, then we might be able to sing it together.

– That's impossible...

– Why, is it a difficult song?

– Because it's a song that my mom created for me.

That's what my mom left me, a precious treasure.

– Your mother created a song?

– She was a pianist.

– Okay then, let us hear the song.

– Eh...

– Isn't she amazing for creating a song? That's why I want to listen to it. Or you can't?

– No, I can.

I was happy to be told that my mom is amazing. I wanted them to listen to the wonderful song of my mom.

Therefore, I sang.

It's a tender song, like a lullaby.

It was my first time singing it by myself, I was moved to tears many times during its duration, but I could sing it properly.

– Splendid, isn't it?

Clap Clap, the boy claps his hands.

– You think, so...?

– I don't really understand that much about music, but that's what I think. What about you Karen, don't you think so too?

Karen also nodded.

– I think you are skillful.

That's the voice of the boy's sister, I heard it for the first time.

– Umm, I feel that it was something like this, right?

As soon as the boy started to sing the song, his sister pouted her lips.

– Nii-san, your tune, is off.

Indeed, his tune was way off.

– Then you should sing it.

When the boy says so, his little sister started to sing.

It was a pristine, lovely voice.

– Oh, you are good.

The boy was surprised, his mouth was completely opened, then he began to sing, following her.

However, their voices didn't play harmoniously.

That's because the boy was out of tempo.

– Nii-san, you have no ear for music.

– Are you saying that I'm clumsy?

As if was natural, I laughed with their interaction.

At the same time, I noticed something.

I was able to laugh for the first time since I lost my mom.

After that, I ended up singing songs together with them....

Several hours later, we three finally smiled, because we played harmoniously well.

After that, I don't know what happened to them. The day after I met them, I was taken over by my father who I met for the first time since I became old enough to understand what's going around myself, and left the institution.

Of course, I never saw those brothers again, but I have never forgotten that day.

Thanks to that day, I loved singing and I was able to find out how to keep living in this world, my purpose to live.

Thanks to them, I could overcome many painful things that came after that.

Chapter 1: Sham Battle *Classmate* Request

In the practice field after school, a sham battle was about to begin.

While its composed by freshmen, in one of the pairs are Kisaragi Hayato and Emile Crossford, who in a blink of an eye became members of the selection force under direct control of the Student Council—*Selections*, and the ones who sorted out to fight against the Savage.

On the other hand, the ones who have done 10 sham battles since their enrolment a month ago—the result is 10 victories for the pair of Fritz Grantz and Latia Saint-Émillion, so the degree of attention is quite high.

Not only freshmen but also many upperclassmen gathered in the watching space, their gazes were towards the four persons standing in the center of the field who have already changed to their Variable Suit and have acquired their *Vital Rings*.

– Deploy your armaments quickly. Show us the strength of the *Selections*.

Although Latia has a generic simple Hundred armament, she already deployed her armament.

She has a Martial Arts type that fights primarily at close quarter combat using armament similar to brass knuckles equipped on her hands, and using an armament like boots equipped on her feet.

Fritz that stands next to her also deploys a generic Hundred.

It's a Long Shooter type weapon specialized in long range fire, that is, the rifle on his right arm, and the power of the bullets of light emitted from that rifle is powerful.

It takes time to inject energy and to set the aim—and because the weight of the rifle is high, the mobility is poor; that being the case, the armor that covers his body is very thick.

Hayato is completely aware of the special characteristics of their Hundred.

It's thanks to the knowledge he has accumulated in various fields such as this

world, the Savage and the Hundred from the lectures received in the martial arts department of Little Garden for over a month now.

– First, thanks for hearing us. We haven’t had a sham battle with members of *Selections* yet. I wanted to ascertain how high my true strength is.

– Yeah, if we can win against you—no, even if we lose, if the match is in equal terms, then not only the day when we can receive an exclusive Hundred will be closer, but even entering *Selections* won’t be just a dream anymore. With that said, don’t hold back.

Following Fritz, Latia added her words.

In short, for the two of them, this sham battle will serve as a distinction whether they can enlist *Selections* or not.

– Got it. Then, I’ll do it seriously.

Emile, who said that vigorously, threw to the air the reddish-brown ore that she was holding in her hand, and shouted.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The ore popped into particles while releasing blue light, then it created a number of floating objects covering the surroundings of Emile’s body.

It’s an Innocence Type Hundred, a special armament that can freely change its shape and property depending on the intention and energy of the operator—<<Fog that Covers Everything>> *Arms Shroud*.

– Hayato, you too deploy it quickly.

Hurried by Emile, who finished the deployment, Hayato grasped tightly the reddish-brown ore that he had, and shouted similarly.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

At once, the ore shone in a particular red, it popped and became particles, a jet-black armor similar to a samurai armor was in his arm—and in his hand a huge sword, *Hien*, was created.

Incidentally, Hayato and Emile’s Hundred are customized for individuals, unlike those of Fritz and Latia.

– You all seem to be ready, so let's start the match at once.

Latia was impatient to fight.

She's loosening her body while jumping up and down.

Emile asked a question there.

– Before that, can we check the rules?

That's what she thought when asking Hayato.

Although he had a one-on-one battle with the President the day after enrollment, neither of them have participated in a sham battle or tag battle* before, so they don't know the rules.

*TN: tag-team match.

– Simply put in a sham battle we do whatever we want. There aren't clear rules in it but— —that's right, let's have the same foundation as if it was a duel.

– For duel, you mean as if it was a tag battle?

Hayato asks to the two of them regarding his own doubts.

– Well, almost. Team battles are done by 3 or more people, but the difference from one-on-one matches is that, as far as you can see, there are two patterns for victory. One of the patterns to win is when in a match someone in a team became unable to fight, another pattern for victory is when the entire team becomes unable to fight. Besides those, there are also defensive battles and the like where you must protect a flag in its respective position, but let's not do that for now.

– In other words, we should do one of the first two. Anything is fine by me, but what about you, Latia?

– If so, how about the pattern when all of the members of a team are unable to continue, making the match to end? That seems to be the standard for duels.

– I don't have any objection with that, what about you guys?

Agreeing with Latia's proposal, Fritz asked Hayato and Emile.

– I'm OK. What do you say, Hayato?

– If all of you are fine with it, then I agree too but...

– What is it, don't be indecisive.

– Think about this seriously.

– What are you talking about? Latia said that we shouldn't go easy on them, right? Besides, there are so many spectators. This duel will look like a real battle. As a matter of fact, since I haven't moved my body properly since the previous resistance, my body is itching to do it.

– Fine, I'll <fight> *do it* seriously...

Hayato answered while sighing.

Doing something like this under their own accord, despite knowing that this will make the President angry, it can't be helped if this happens.

(This Emile, I thought that she has calmed down these days, but she is the same as always...)

He ended up fighting right after enrolling, but he didn't realize that she's a woman because she has been acting in a masculine way, but in the end, that's only his opinion of her.

In the first place, if that's the case for Hayato, he has numerous hunches that there are a lot of people who are hot-blooded Slayers as her.

Even Latia, at some extent, will have that tendency.

Anyway, they decided the rules of the sham battle in this way.

The time limit is 15 minutes— they lose if both are knocked down or if they give up.

Alphonse Lemoine*, a freshman living in the same dormitory, will play the role of the referee.

*TN: IDK if this was intended or not (maybe in vol. 3-4 is revealed), but his lastname is Brewstadt later on, and here is Lemoine. There's no way for 2 Alphonse that have the same Hundred type to appear in the NL.

His body is round, his personality is gentle making him look as if he wasn't a Slayer. He has a rare type of Hundred, a Tamer type. The user changes the

Variable Stone into the shape of an animal and orders it to fight.

– You fo~ur, are your preparations *oka~y*?

The thick voice of Alphonse, the freshman living in the same dormitory who's standing in the center of the field, echoed in the practice grounds.

The four of them nodded, and confirming that they were ready, Alphonse waved one of his hands that was raised high towards the ceiling.

– Well then, begi~n!

At the same time with that voice, Latia rushed out, detonating the *sense energy* at her feet.

– Hayato! I know how powerful your Hundred is because of the battle with the President, so the victory goes to the one who makes the first move!

– ... kh!

Hayato dodged the fist that was swung downward leaping horizontally, but the pinch didn't end there.

A mass of strong force was approaching from the front.

It's a beam bullet that Fritz fired.

– I'm sorry, but this is our win!

In other words, Latia was a diversion, she acted as decoy.

– Gah...!!!

Hayato rapidly deployed an E barrier and attempted to block the light bullets, but he is pushed by their power, his body bounced off behind.

– Are you okay, Hayato!?

– This is not the situation to be looking away!

Latia launched a kick to Emile who's worried about Hayato.

– ...kh.

Even though she was surprised, Emile quickly intercepted it with her arms.

Continuing, Latia released a roundhouse kick, then she consecutively pushed

out her fists, Emile stopped the blows using *Arms Shroud*, and diverted her body, dodging with light movements.

– As expected, her movements are fast, but— —

And Emile, who was completely devoted to defending, began to attack.

She instantly moved two of her *Arms Shroud* behind Latia, she changed them to floating batteries and fired beams from them.

– Wha!!

She probably didn't assume that she would attack from behind.

Latia was struck by two beams on her back, and fell to the ground from the front.

– Gha... you did it...!

Since in such condition E *barrier* wasn't deployed, the damage was considerable. Tears were rising from the corner of her eyes.

Despite that, and while she was standing up, she swung downwards her fist to the ground with all her strength.

– Deei!

A cloud of dust rises due to wind pressure, and Emile's line of sight got blocked.

Since she can't identify her target, it's impossible for her to attack with the floating batteries.

That seemed to be the strategy of Latia.

– Take this, a retaliation of just now!

Running through the cloud of dust, Latia tries to strike Emile. But she didn't swing down her fist.

– What!?

Latia approached Emile until their distance was around 1 meter, then she rapidly brought her body backwards, and with both hands on the ground, she jumped back while doing a backward somersault.

As the cloud of sand disappears, the figure of Emile, who was projecting out a spear is visible to the eyes of Hayato—

– Wasn't your Hundred a Dragoon type...?

She never saw a battle of Emile; it was unknown to her that her Hundred is a changeable type.

Latia couldn't hide her surprise.

Aside from the shape, there's hardly any Hundred in the world that change its type, so it's natural to react like that.

– My Hundred is a bit special made one. Given that, I was wondering if Latia could be defeated, but—

Emile projects the spear again.

She evaded it by jumping—or at least Latia pretended to look like that, then she came down and entangled her legs to the spear that was in the air, and lifted the body of Emile with the principle of leverage.

Due to that, Emile, who lost the balance of her body, is knocked down on the ground.

– It hurts, your movement.... As expected of a user of the Martial Arts type. That was pretty smart...

– Fufun, it's one of my specialties when fighting a spear opponent.

– Emile, are you okay?

Hayato asked Emile through the *Vital Ring*.

– Yeah, I just fell, that's all.

Emile quickly stood up and picked up the spear that had fallen from her hand.

– See, are you recognizing that we too are doing our best?

Latia, with a hand on her waist, got cocky and showed a proud smile.

– That might be sufficient, for now. But we won't lose.

Emile readied the spear, and talked with a low voice through the *Vital Ring*.

– I think Hayato already knows it but, Long Shooter type Hundred shouldn't

be able to move properly right after a bombardment. Aim for that gap, and set off an attack on Fritz.

– ...got it.

– Then, I'll leave it to you.

As Emile and Hayato move separately to the left and right, the timing that he should be aiming at him is right now.

It is because he fired a bombardment.

Without a moment's delay, Hayato accelerated and evaded the bombardment, then he tried to launch an attack, but a bombardment was fired again shortly afterwards.

(Wha, how——!?)

Thinking about it, these two consecutive bombardments had the shape of bullets, in comparison to the laser-like ones that were fired right after the start of the sham battle.

In other words, he fired bit by bit the all the energy accumulated, meaning that it may be possible to do a rapid-fire.

To the approaching Hayato, Fritz released a third and fourth light bullet in succession.

Hayato approached Fritz while making use of the *accelerator* to dodge to the left and right.

(...this is different from the strategy, if so at this distance!)

Hien was raised overhead, to seize the body of Fritz.

The voice of Latia arrived there.

– I won't let you do as you like, Hayato!

Nonetheless, Fritz's light bullets are far away, those should have been fired from a distant place. And yet——

– ——huh!?

Hayato felt a dull pain in the back of his head, falling forward and collapsing.

– Ouch... what was, that...?

He got up and turned his eyes towards Latia, he could see that the knuckle of her right hand was rotating.

Moreover, her arm was coiling around something like a tornado.

– How is it? Since close quarter combats has its limitations, this is why I learned a technique like this— —like this wind!

Latia pulled her right arm and released a spiral wind to Hayato.

Hayato judged that the wind would only go in a straight-line, so he got up and avoided it moving to the side.

Fritz aligned the sight of the rifle's sensor there.

– How about this!

Hayato tried to dodge the bullets of light that were fired by rolling, but then he was driven to the wall of the battlefield.

In this situation, if he is under the aim of Latia's spiral wind and Fritz's light bullets, then he won't have a place to escape anymore.

He experienced in the fight with the President that this is a dangerous position.

(What do I do...?)

During his hesitation, Latia created a tornado in her arms, and tried to release the spiral again.

– This will— —stop it!

Emilia set off an attack there.

– I won't let you attack Hayato anymore!

– Kuh, it seems like we were exposed to her aiming!

– That's right!

Latia changed her objective and released the spiral wind, but Emile used *energy* to jump high and attempted a falling attack with the pointed end of the spear.

Latia avoided it doing a back step, the spear pierced the ground.

Towards Emile who's trying to pull it out, Latia jumps at the same time she lands and released a turning kick.

– Kuh!

Emile extracted the spear and defended against the turning kick by using it like a shield, then she pushed her arms forward with vigor, trying to keep away the body of Latia.

Latia lost the balance of her body, but she didn't end collapsing, and tried to regain her posture by doing a backward somersault in the air.

And again, Emile pushed out the spear.

– What...!?

As one would expect, Latia didn't seem to be able to fend off the attack right after landing.

Instantly taking a defensive posture and stretching the E *barrier*, she tried to endure it, but the spear broke through it and this time her body hit the ground.

Immediately afterwards, she changed the tip of the spear to a muzzle, just like when she was fighting one of the Student Council Vice-presidents of Little Garden—Liddy Steinberg.

– Now this will decide the game!

– I won't let you!

It was Fritz who raised his voice towards Emile, he was trying to fire light bullets.

The rifle of the right arm is directed towards Emile, he's finding the timing to fire the bombardment.

– Now, Hayato!

– Roger!

Hayato understood the intention of Emile and immediately accelerated, setting off an attack on Fritz.

That's when he noticed.

Fritz cancelled the bombardment on Emile and, rapidly turned the muzzle of the rifle towards Hayato.

(This is bad!!)

Hayato thought, but Fritz didn't bombard him.

(The charge of energy, isn't ready yet?)

Then, now this is his chance.

Hayato granted *sense energy* to Hien that he had readied from an overhead position and swung it down without hesitation.

Speaking of its power, it should be enough to blown away the body of Fritz and bringing him down...

– Wha...

Fritz stopped the blow of Hayato with the rifle in his right arm.

There was nothing else he could do, his facial expression distorted in pain, his arms were worn-out and trembling.

– See, I managed somehow to endure it with an E *barrier*!

– I've not finished!

When Hayato puts more strength on both hands, the body of Fritz... moves slightly to the back.

Forcing his way like this, when he thought that he might be able to knock down the body of Fritz, Hayato felt something like intense light in front of him.

(Bad news!?)

The crevice between the fingers of the armor of the left hand of Fritz is directed to Hayato, it shines violently with *energy*.

– Not bad, Hayato. Now we are tied.

– When did you have that muzzle——?

– If I didn't have this, then you were likely to defeat us. So, I hid it for a moment like this.

Fritz loosened his mouth and shoot two lasers from his left arm.

The front of Hayato dyed white.

... and, at the same time.

DOKUN, his heart beat very loudly.

(This, is...)

There have been two times where he has been in a similar situation.

At the time he fought with the President and in the fight against the Trenta Savage.

In both of them he felt danger, as a result of that, the moment when the power of the Variant activated.

As far as he can tell, those situations are the same as now...

His body became hot from the core, consciousness began to diverge from his body.

In order to keep the consciousness in his body, Hayato suddenly clenched his teeth and tried to endure it.

(—It's fine, I can do it...!)

He was able to withstand it once, and in this month, after school and after returning to the dorm, he received training from Emile to control his *energy*.

He was told that this was the cornerstone to control the power of the Variant.

Now it's time to try the fruits.

— Uoooooooooooooooooooooh!

With the roar that Hayato raised, his armament changed.

So far, he hasn't lost his consciousness.

On the contrary, it seems that power is gushing forth from the depths of his body.

As the armament covers his whole body, Hien expanded up to two times its original size.

When he swung it horizontally, the body of Fritz was blown away to the bridge of the field.

As soon as he hits the wall, his armament is cancelled and his body falls to the ground.

Subsequently, a reddish-brown ore also fell on the ground. Until moments ago, it was Fritz's Hundred, the one that gave him a thick armor that covered his body as well as the giant rifle in his right arm.

– Fritz, are you alright?

Latia, who was watching the situation rushed over to Fritz in concern.

– ...I guess.... But, you sure about it? Even if my *Vital* is zero, the match continues...

Fritz raised his trembling arms and showed a thumb up along with a smile.

But he was forcing himself, it was so obvious to the extent that it was painful to look at him....

– Don't say stupid things.

Latia raised both of her hands.

– I give up.

Alphonse ran with heavy steps from the referee's seat towards the center of the field and put up his hands high.

– We have a winner! The victory goes to Kisaragi Hayato and Emile Crossford!

Hayato, who sighed and cancelled his armament, walked toward Fritz, who was borrowing the shoulders of Latia to rise his own body.

– I'm sorry, in that state, I can't control my own strength...

Hayato apologized, thinking that he went too far, because no matter how you look at it, it was a sham battle.

– Take it easy, we were the ones who told you that you had to do it seriously. If it wasn't for your full armament, then you would be the one driven to the wall.

Although he won this, he didn't react with an expression of joy, but he was glad that he could control his power properly.

– But, my full power bombardment wasn't effective, this is beyond cheating... it hurts...

Fritz stood up with the hand that Hayato stretched out, but his body hurts a lot.

He soon tumbled down from his waist.

– Don't try to force yourself. I'll take you to the medical office.

– Sorry.

Fritz responded with a faint smile.

– What, as I'm your partner, it's natural to do it.

– Would you like me to help you?

Emile called them out, looking at Latia trying to get up the staggered Fritz with her shoulders.

– No, I'm fine. But it was a complete defeat. *Selections* is still far away from us...

Latia sighed with a *Haaa*.

– ... you think so?

– Well, if you have a dedicated Hundred, your attack power will rise. Even us wouldn't act carelessly then.

– If you say so, then I'll believe in myself.

In response to Emile's words, Latia gladly smiled from the bottom of her heart.

After seeing off Latia and Fritz, who left the practice grounds towards the medical office,

– Well then, shall we go to change our clothes?

– Sure.

And, two girls came close to them, when Hayato nodded regarding Emile who called him out.

– Kisaragi-san!

– Congratulations for your efforts!

In the entrance ceremony, the girls who were told to leave Little Garden, the ones who were about to be dropped out. The one with the longest hair is Noah Sheldon of the Yamato lineage of Liberia and the person with the short hair is Ryu Shuemei of <Qin Empire>> *Chiney*.

Since that event, Hayato was often able to speak with them.

– Congratulations on your victory of the sham battle.

Following to what Noah said, Shuemei opened her mouth,

– You received a shot from Grantz-san but, are you okay?

– Eh, yeah.... Somehow, as you can see...

– What a relief, as expected of Kisaragi-san.

They nodded by looking at each other.

– The thing is, actually we wanted to ask something to Kisaragi-san...

– We can successfully do a deployment but we are having issues granting *energy*.



Following Shuemei, Noah said.

– I have a rapier of the Chevalier type. Ryu has a long spear of the Phalanx type, and just like Kisaragi-san, our fighting style is by employing weapons with our hands.

– That’s why, can Kisaragi-san teach us since they are similar styles... or it’s impossible for you?

Shuemei and Noah appealed to Hayato while looking up to him, and there, sounds of footsteps were approaching that place.

It’s Alphonse who served as the referee in the previous sham battle.

– Hey, Hayato～. If you are going to train their Hundred, then teach me too～.

– Err...

TAP TAP TAP, it’s his Tamer type Hundred, which is like a dog type home robot that went after Alphonse and sat down at his feet, but honestly, it doesn’t seem like it can fight.

– I don’t really know anything about that Hundred...

While it may be true that he may say something about the Long Spear type of Ryu and the Chevalier type of Noah, there’s another problem to that.

(Although I can use the Hundred, I’m not in a level where I can teach other people about them...)

During the past month, classes using Hundred also started.

For the instructors who belong to Warslan as well as the Slayers, and those who make of the Hundred as members of *Selections*, there’s a practical curriculum that teaches them how to fight using their Hundred, and this is what the students of the martial arts departments are interested the most, as this is also an important lesson for them.

Incidentally, among the freshmen, only around 20% of them could perfectly use their Hundred since the beginning, another 30% can deploy the shape of their weapon— and the other 50% are at the level where they can transform their Hundred, but can’t adjust it, it can’t even be grasped by themselves yet.

The two girls in front of him were exactly in that 50%.

The thing is, he immediately learned how to deploy an E *barrier* and to deploy his Hundred, and then tied in the duel with the President—after that, they probably thought about trying to request to Kisaragi Hayato, the anticipated freshman, who had become a member of *Selections*, slaughtered a Trenta Savage, and had the highest reaction value of all time, to teach them.

Nonetheless, to be honest, Hayato doesn't know how to teach.

It would be different from the way Emile was doing it.

(At that time, I felt like I had to try and do it, rather than being taught...)

In the past month, Hayato realized that he was too much different from the other freshmen.

At any rate, a thing that they couldn't do even in half a month, he did it in mere 10 minutes.

Whether it's thanks to the *sense* that was originally in Hayato, or thanks to the power of the Variant, it's something that can't be determined at this stage.

(Waaa, what shall I do...)

Troubledly looking towards Emile, she was also being asked to practice, surrounded by female classmates.

Looking at the sham battle just now, there were some who became a fan of her and others who are interested in her Hundred, and also those who press questions to her.

– Hayato.

Emile called him out as soon as their eyes met.

– From now on, we should teach everyone how to use their Hundred.

– It is good and all that you are excited, but it is impossible for now.

Following Emile's grateful suggestion, the voice that echoed in the practice grounds belonged to a girl wearing a blue special uniform walking towards Hayato who's standing in the field—she's one of the Vice Presidents of the Student Council of Little Garden, an upperclassman who has a short-cut hairstyle and red underframe glasses, Erika Candle.

– Kisaragi Hayato, Claire-sama is calling for you. Please come to the Student Council Room with me right now.

– Eh...

– It's to talk about a mission of the *Selections*.

This was the first time since Hayato has joined the *Selections* that he was being summoned.

– Only Hayato is being summoned?

Emile asked in discontent, as she's also a member of *Selections*, her aura of wanting to listen with Hayato was released from her whole body.

But Erika flatly rejected her,

– Only Kisaragi Hayato is being called. I will guide him to the Student Council Room. Please follow me.

He can't even procrastinate, not to mention to refuse it since there was a previous appointment.

– I'm sorry I entrusted the rest to you.

Hayato, leaving the training to Emile, changed his clothes from his Variable Jacket to his uniform, and moved to the Student Council Room following Erika who leads the way.

– Claire-sama, I brought Kisaragi Hayato.

– Come in.

When Erika knocked the big door provided with the sign which has "Student Council Room" written on it, Claire's voice came from behind the door.

Along with Erika who opened the door, Hayato set foot into the room.

– It seems as if you acted violently desuwane.

A girl wearing a special red uniform sitting on a desk chair at the back of the large room with a red carpet spread across—the Student Council President <<Queen>> Claire Harvey, stared at Hayato.

– Umm, that, sorry...

He quickly understood that the cause was the sham battle with Latia and the others.

– If there's a sortie now, due to the lack of *sense energy*, you will be in trouble, yes? Although you are a first-year student, you are also a member of *Selections*, so considering that, you will be in trouble unless you avoid unnecessary battles masu.

– Now now, even if Claire-sama says it...

That's what was said by a boy holding a tablet PC that stands behind Claire.

Looking at the uniform, he is Chris Steinbelt, Claire's assistant and who seemed to belong to middle school.

– Be silent, Chris. It, it was certainly a mistake made by our Student Council before, but that mad dog, Emile Crossford, is also in the wrong desuwayo.

– Regardless of her true intention, let's end this conversation. There's an important conversation that we have to do.

– You, you are right desuwane...

Following the words of Chris, Claire continued, clearing her throat with a cough.

– Then, let's move on to the main subject. You know well that this ship is going to the Zwei Island next week, am I correct?

– Ah, yes....

Thanks to the Slayers of Little Garden, the Zwei Islands were saved from the evil hands of the Savage. Wanting to thank that, the government of the Zwei Islands contacted the Student Council, the headquarters of Little Garden, through Warslan Company.

Of course, members of the Student Council accepted this with pleasure. They decided to visit under the guidance of the governor of the Zwei Islands, and at that time Little Garden was in an island to the west of the Zwei Islands—it has been decided that they would be docking at the west land.

That was rumored also among the students of the martial arts department.

During the period of four days, the residents are basically free to come and go.

Moreover, because the schedule is on Friday's holiday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday's holiday, that means they have four consecutive holidays, so the topic in the dormitories is where they should go.

Anyway, the freshmen could breathe in the air outside Little Garden for the first time in almost a month. The daily life isn't bad, it's not uncomfortable at all but, it is a pleasant feeling after all to do this.

The inside of the ship is now being filled with such a mood before the trip.

– On Monday, which is the last day, Kirishima Sakura's live concert will be held at the Zwei Islands.

– If I remember correctly, Kirishima Sakura is the Idol that was going to have a concert at the Zwei Islands when the previous incident happened desuyone?

– You may say that this is to take responsibility and redo the suspended concert at that time.

It was Erika who added an explanation.

According to her, Kirishima Sakura's live was interrupted by a Savage's raid, but the tickets haven't been refunded yet.

Kirishima Sakura was asked in an interview how she was going to deal with it,

– I pray for the reconstruction of the Zwei Islands and for that I want to do a consolation concert outdoors.

She answered that.

If you had the last concert ticket, then you are in the preferential venue. If you are a resident of the Zwei Island then your participation is for free.

In addition to that, Kirishima Sakura's plan was to invite the Slayers and citizens of Little Garden who saved the Zwei Islands from the evil hands of the Savage while they are docking during the duration of the live concert for free.

Of course, those who can't participate in this live concert will be refunded,

and all the profits of the already sold live tickets will go towards the reconstruction of the Zwei Islands——the so-called charity live that Sakura had declared.

By the way, the events and holidays in Little Garden are held according to the Liberian calendar, which is the nationality of the ship.

Monday is a national holiday, the Liberia's <Memorial Day to Mourn the Officers and Men Killed in Action> *Memorial Day*.

It seems that Sakura has decided that day because it was also a holiday in the Zwei Islands, as a day to mourn for the Slayers and soldiers who died in the fight against the Savage.

The government of the Zwei Islands said that they accepted her proposal pleasantly and that they would cooperate holding the live.

– And so, the security for that occasion is to be undertaken by Little Garden. But one thing, a troublesome thing happened desuwa.

– A troublesome thing, you say?

– The client, Kirishima Sakura, has nominated you——Kisaragi Hayato, as her personal security, or what is it called, her bodyguard desu.

– ...nominated me, but why me?

– We enquired the client about that matter, but there was no clear answer deshitawa.

– Although Hayato-sama's personal data is not open yet, we don't know what she knows about you. Speaking of a certain possibility is that, just like her, Hayato is also from the Empire of Yamato, but you are not acquainted with Kirishima-san, correct?

– No, not at all.

To Chris' question, Hayato answered.

Of course, she is not in his memory.

At any rate, he wasn't aware of her existence before this.

– If so, the great efforts of Hayato-sama in the previous battle, and the

aptitude value at the time of enrolment. It may be that rumors are being leaked out from somewhere. If there's any other reason, then maybe is the possibility that a Savage is hidden in the Zwei Islands?

– Savage you say, what do you...

– The details will be told from me.

Erika opened her mouth in regard to Hayato who was asking Chris.

– In fact, the number of Savage that came flying from the far outer space during the previous fight was a total of seven.

– Eh...

– Of course, Warslan's flying corps and the troops of the Kingdom of François could shoot down 4 bodies out of the 7 before reaching the ground.

In other words, the remaining three were the opponents of Hayato and the others in the previous resistance.

– However, we found only 1 corpse from the bodies that were shot down—the remaining three are alive somewhere.

– Because they fell in the sea so it's difficult to find them, but we can't relax the vigilance. For that reason, Little Garden is going to guard the concert desuwa.

Claire continued the explanation of Erika, but her tone was containing more tension than before.

– In other words, the moment when the Savage appeared, was it meant that I was chosen as a Slayer to protect Kirishima Sakura...?

– I think such possibility is high.

Erika replies immediately.

– In this connection, <<LiZA>> has also judged that there's no problem if it's you, since the Slayers belonging to Little Garden and the members of *Selections* are doing the guarding of the live concert as a way to give our thanks, because they invited us to the concert and to dock in there, as this is also a strong request from the headquarters side.

Claire continued after talking about the premise.

– Therefore, Kisaragi Hayato. I want you to take on this task desu.

– What happens if I say NO?

– Although you are a member of *Selections*, in the end this might be a trouble to your role as a student, so we will have to persuade our headquarters and we will have no choice but to ask the client to change desuwane. I won't tell you that you are forced to do it masenwa.

– Is that so...?

– What do you think, Kisaragi Hayato? Do you want to take the request?

– ...I'll do it. Let me do it.

Thinking a little, Hayato replied. This is the first time that he will do his duties in a proper way after joining *Selections*. Of course, he is anxious, but since he was nominated, he would like to do it properly. It's not decided that he won't fight the Savage, but if the brain of Little Garden <<LiZA>> says that there's no problem, then there's no way for him to make any complaints.

– A good reply desuwa. Don't just give your best, accomplish it flawlessly so you don't have any troubles.

Looking at Hayato and the determination he revealed, Claire slipped out a smile.

It was a very happy smile.

– Well then, I will contact you for details at a later date masu. Your vacations are a thing of the past, but a compensation for those days, a small pay will be issued. Is there anything else you wish for? If there is something, we will consider it.

– If that's the case, I have one thing in mind. I don't know if you can do it but...

– ... what is it desuno?

Closing her eyes, Claire asks back.

– Umm, it's about the concert of Kirishima Sakura——

After leaving the Student Council Room, Hayato went to the hospital as he

was, mailed Emile and left the school alone. It was because he wanted to tell Karen, his sister who's in the hospital, as soon as possible.

– Eeh, can I really see the live of Sakura-san!?

When Hayato told her, Karen got up from the bed with so much force that she was about to come out of it as she was.

Hayato, who was surprised by the distance of his face with the one of her sister who approached each other as if they were a pair of lovers, draw back without thinking and took a certain distance from her.

– I got permission from the nurse Mihal-san, and asked the President to prepare a special seat.

The stadium which was the original concert venue was destroyed by the raid of the Savage, so a charity live will be held at a special venue mainly consisting of a simple stage set up on the site.

Therefore, there are no fixed seats. In the live everyone will be standing, and Karen who can't stand by her own for a long period of time won't be able to participate if it is a normal one.

That's why Hayato asked Claire knowing that it was impossible, to prepare a place that will allow her to participate in the live with a wheelchair.

It's a rare big opportunity, as he wanted to show Karen's favorite artist's concert as close as possible to the stage.

Claire received Hayato's proposal with a troubled expression at first, but she breathed profoundly and since it was inevitable, she smiled.

– Understood. If it is for your sister, we will do what we can. Chris, can you get in touch with the manager of Kirishima Sakura?

– As you say. I am going to ask if she can participate in a wheelchair and if they can prepare a place where the stage can be seen with no problems.

Chris immediately contacted the office of Kirishima Sakura.

As a result, it was arranged to prepare a place for the wheelchair which can specially look out over the stage.

– Thank you very much, Nii-san. Nothing but good things have happened to Karen since she came to Little Garden.

– Uwaa!

Karen, with a smiley face, embraced the neck of Hayato without previous notice.

– That blond hair dri....no, President-san is actually a nice person, isn't it?

With those words, Hayato smiled wryly remembering that Karen hated the President who sent him to the hospital.

– ...well, of course Nii-san is also going to watch Sakura-san's live concert together with Karen. If so, then I can't stop my lessons. The most popular song Sakura-san is...

– It's regrettable but that won't be.

Hayato said to Karen who took the tablet PC at the bedside and was about to begin singing the song of Kirishima Sakura.

– Eh, why is that? I thought that I was going to watch it together with Nii-san...

Karen casted down her eyes in sadness.

– Umm, I've been told that I mustn't tell anyone about this, but—

Hayato whispered Karen about his first duty since he joined *Selections*.

– Eeeeeh, Nii-san is the bodyguard of Sakura-san!?

– Hey, lower your voice. What am I going to do if this was heard outside!?

– I'm sorry, it's just that I was very surprised... Please give me some time. I'm going to calm down.

Inhaling Exhaling, Inhaling Exhaling, Karen does deep breaths over and over again, but the excitement won't let her regain her cool, so she asks a question while being very enthusiastic.

– Err, since you are the personal guard of Sakura-san, then that means you are going to be by her side and that you can talk to her.

– Maybe, I wonder about that...

His role is to be her personal guard——otherwise, he won't be able to fulfill his duty as a bodyguard.

When Hayato answered, Karen opened her mouth while looking at Hayato with sparkling and hopeful eyes.

– That's why Karen, has a favor to ask to Nii-san...

Then one week passed and the first day of the special vacation arrived——and the day of the first duty since Kisaragi Hayato joined *Selections* arrived.

Chapter 2: Kirishima Sakura *Bodyguard*

Karen's Fortune Telling

– Uwaa, what's happening!?

Waking up with a violent vertical shake.

Hayato rapidly jumped up to his feet from the bed due to the earthquake.

However, he noticed that there was another bed besides the one he was sleeping, and recognized the place where he was.

(Oh right, unlike Yamato, there aren't earthquakes in Little Garden...)

Anyway, this dorm is on the academy city ship floating on the sea.

Then it might be a storm— but that wasn't the case.

Outside the window there's a deep blue sky, and in the first place everything except the airport section of Little Garden is sealed with transparent glass.

No matter how much it rains, or how much the wind blows, they won't affect the family area nor the military area, and on that subject, even if the ocean is quite rough, it is designed so that the shaking will hardly be transmitted, or that's what he heard.

(Then, what in the world was that tremor?)

For now Hayato, who was in his undershirt and underpants, quickly wore some trousers and came out to the corridor with PDA in hand.

Right there he came across with Emile who came out from the opposing room.

Unlike the casual appearance of Hayato, she was already wearing the uniform of the martial arts department, wearing her ponytails that had a perfect shape.

– Morning, Hayato. What a terrible tremor!

Like Hayato, she wondered about the tremor and went out of the room.

Even though she seemed to be in a hurry, Emile greeted him showing a smile.

– What on earth could that be?

When Hayato threw the question, *Rattle Rattle*, the ground shook more violently than before.

– Uwaah!?

– Waah!?

Hayato and Emile screamed in unison.

Gogogogo... and, although the sounds similar to rumbles in the ground and the short and repeated tremors continued, they gradually became weak and eventually stopped.

– I’m pretty sure it’s because we docked.

– Does it mean that we arrived at the shore of the Zwei Islands?

They heard that that was scheduled at 9:00 in the morning. But it’s just past 8:00, the docking happened 1 hour faster.

– Maybe, I guess.

After a short time, from the speakers installed in the dormitory, *Ding dong Ding dong*, the sound of a chime echoed.

Following that, they heard the voice of Erika Candle, the Vice-president with glasses.

『Simultaneous communication in the ship, simultaneous communication in the ship. Good morning to all the residents of Little Garden. From here, there is information from the Student Council of Little Garden. Right now, the ship has docked at the *Eastland*—the east island in the Zwei Islands』

– See? It’s just like I said.

Emile smiled with proud.

Then Erika, through the speaker, informed that after an hour of inspection they will do the opening, and they would be able to come and go freely for four days between the Zwei Islands and Little Garden.

– Which reminds me, from what time do you have to work today, Hayato?

At the same time the simultaneous communication broadcast ended, Emile asked.

The work is, of course, to be the bodyguard of <<Princess Sorceress of the Land of the Rising Sun>> *Oriental Wizard* Kirishima Sakura.

Naturally it was confidential for who Hayato was going to work, but it's obvious for Emile to know about it since she's also a member of *Selections*.

– In the conversation of yesterday, I heard that it's from noon but....
Depending on the weather, they will summon me to let me know the moment it's official.

– If that's the case, would you like to go sightseeing Zwei Islands until then?

– What?

– There's no problem if we go back by noon, right? If so, then I guess we can go for a bit. Fisherman's Wharf on the west side of Zwei Islands where Little Garden is docking is quite attractive and looks fun, it shouldn't take more than 30 minutes to reach there.

What Emile wants to say is that they will be able to enjoy themselves, and that it would take them around an hour to travel back and forth from Little Garden.

– I really really want to go there, you know.

In case there was a summoning from the President, it will be problematic if he doesn't move to that place on time.

In yesterday's conversation, Kirishima Sakura, after getting down at the *Eastland* airport— at the east side of the Zwei Islands, she will be heading to Little Garden with the Student Council members.

In any case, if they go to Fisherman's Wharf, then just in case, it may be better to contact the President and get her permission— thinking about it, the PDA made an electronic sound.

– It's from the Student Council room....

Moreover, it's not a mail but a call request.

– Don't tell me, they are summoning you already?

While Emile was showing an anxious expression, Hayato touched the call button displayed on the screen of the PDA.

– Yes, it's Kisaragi Hayato.

『Good morning, this is Erika Candle. Although timely, the schedule was brought quite forward. The client arrived in just one hour and a little』

Erika's tone contains the nuance that she was troubled regarding the schedule that went amiss.

『As you were told yesterday, originally Claire-sama and I were scheduled to meet her, but at this time we have talks with the Governor of the Zwei Islands and people of western cuisine. Therefore, since you are a member of *Selections*, you will head there as an envoy, so please join with the client without us. I will arrange for a hired car to meet you in the dormitory in 30 minutes so please follow the instructions of the envoy who is on board there』

– Ah, yes, I understand.

『Well then, we will leave it to you』

He was unilaterally informed of the matter and the call was terminated.

– Don't tell me you have to go already?

Emile asked with a gloomy look.

– Yeah, it seems that I have to leave from here in 30 minutes.

– I see...

When she heard those words, Emile dropped her shoulders, and muttered mixed with a sigh.

– It's regrettable, I thought that I could flirt magnificently with my precious Hayato outside Little Garden...

After finishing his breakfast rapidly and finished changing clothes, he went out to the entrance and right there a black painted hired car arrived.

The front door opened, and who came out from the front passenger seat is Liddy Steinberg, one of the Vice-presidents of the Student Council.

– Liddy-san, is your health alright?

Hayato asked while being surprised.

It was the first time since he saw her injured in the previous resistance.

– It is still impossible for me to come out in a battle, but I was discharged from the hospital one week earlier since I was judged that there was no problem to do my daily duties. I was told by Claire-sama that I still need medical treatment, but since I can do as much as picking you up, I offered myself to do it. Anyway, I have business to do in *Eastland*.

While saying that, Liddy opened the rear door.

– Seeming that your preparations are ready, get in.

Hayato got into the car as he was told.

Next, once Liddy got into the front passenger seat the car started to move.

– We are heading to the airport of Little garden.

– Eh, according to yesterday, she was going to land on the eastern island of Zwei Islands—on the airport at *Eastland*....

– Because she's arriving earlier than planned, it seems that she wants to look around Little Garden.

After 5 minutes or so, Hayato arrived at the airport.

– I forgot, I am handing this to you.

He got out the car and on his way towards the waiting room, Liddy took out a handgun from her breast pocket and presented it to Hayato.

A tranquilizer gun against man and Slayers—<<N Tranquilizer>>.

– ... yes.

– Take it and keep it with you; anything may happen during your duty.

Hayato nodded, received the gun and put it in a holster on the inside of the uniform's jacket.

Although there was a gun in his breast pocket, he wasn't used to it, but he wasn't bewildered.

He heard in advance that a gun was going to be handed over to him, to use it only as a personal protection of Kirishima Sakura, so every day after school for the past few days he had been training in guns.

The moment when a crisis has approached the escort target person, he would take out the gun by reflex, mark his objective and pull the trigger.

It goes without saying that he would have a hard time since he never shot a gun up to now, but with a training of near 3 hours every day for a week, he has reached the point where he can hit a target with the bullets.

Of course, in the end this is a tranquilizer gun, it doesn't have killing ability, but it was mentioned that it also has the function to neutralize an E *barrier* of an opposing Slayer and it's also possible to destroy the *energy balance* of the body.

... but, it's no more than a hasty preparation after all.

Naturally, deployment of Hundred is also permitted in case of emergency.

In the end, the <<N Tranquilizer>> is an insurance, but the escort target person is a worldwide famous Idol.

In case of something, he must keep everything in order.

– One more thing, this is a <Probe> *Sonar*.

What was presented next is a small radio-like device.

– I think you heard it but, aside from the hotel room, and if there is a request from the client, this is used to investigate whether eavesdropping devices, cameras, *etc.* are set up. We, the bodyguards, do not know where our enemies are and who are they targeting. Never lose your focus.

– Of course.

With a firm answer, and putting the sonar in the pocket, the PDA in another pocket sounded with a ringtone.

– Who is it...?

Hayato took out the PDA and checked the screen.

It's a mail from Karen.

『Please get me a sign of Karen-san. During this morning, I told Nii-san's fortune for today and <<Caution with Water>> came out, so please be careful.

Karen 』

(Don't arbitrarily tell people's fortune...)

And, without thinking, Hayato complained in his mind.

(Moreover, caution with water you say...)

Is she going to end up drowning or something?

Although he didn't understand a little about it, the fortune-telling of Karen was really off the mark, so Hayato tried to not worry too much and put the PDA back in his pocket.

After a while, a man in the air traffic control room came there and told them that Kirishima Sakura will arrive in about 5 minutes.

He followed the instruction and came out to the deck with Liddy.

When going out of the roof that covers Little Garden, the aroma of sea water became strong as a matter of course, and he could hear *Zaza... Zaza...* the roar of the waves and he could hear the chirping of the sea birds flying in the sky.

The rotating sound of propellers mixed in there.

When he looked at the sky, he could clearly grasp the figure of a helicopter with his very eyes. Hovering over the heads of Hayato and Liddy, the helicopter descended slowly on the deck— and the landing was completed.

The rotation of the propellers and the engine stopped, the hatch was opened.

Using the ramp as a foothold, a girl came down while her heels were doing *Click Click* sounds.

***TN: Sfx for a metallic clinking sound.**

While holding down a white hat on her head, she saw the sky and muttered while blocking the sun with her right hand.

– So, this is Little Garden.

This girl is the subject of protection of Kisaragi Hayato— —the worldwide popular Idol, native of the Yamato Empire, *Oriental Wizard* Kirishima Sakura.

Big and round eyes, a dress with bright colors leaving her shoulders visible, and hot pants revealing slender and toned thighs. Her long hair is the same as her name, and its gathered by two barrettes made in the shape of a cherry blossom.

Besides that, her features are lovely and at the same time, she looks just like a doll.

On the other hand, there's a woman in a suit, she was wearing smart and thin glasses and was coming down the ramp behind Sakura with a calm appearance.

Hayato had already heard from Claire about that person that had a large suitcase in her hands, he knew her because of the picture that was shown to him. She's Souffle Clearrail, the president of Sakura Management, the company that produces Kirishima Sakura and concurrently holds as her manager, as a matter of course.

– Nice to meet you, Kirishima Sakura-sama. Welcome to <<Academy City Ship>> Little Garden.

Approaching Sakura who descended from the ramp, Liddy presented her right hand.

– Nice to meet you, you are?

Shaking hands, Sakura asked.

– I am the Vice-president of Little Garden, Liddy Steinberg.

– ...Vice-president, you say?

– In terms of an ordinary ship, please think of me as the Vice-captain. We Little Garden look forward to working with you.

– I'm indebted to you, so it is I who should say such words. And, this person is— —

The line of sight of Sakura is directed to Hayato.

– You are Kisaragi Hayato, right? From today onwards, you are my bodyguard, I'll be under your care.

Sakura who came in front of him gave a smile and presented her right hand.

– Umm, well... nice to meet you.

He grasped tightly her hand, and like her body, it was very small.

– Then Kisaragi-san. Would you please show me Little Garden?

– ... eh, me?

– You are my guardian from today, isn't it? Aren't you obliged to escort me?

– Umm....

Hayato is suddenly bewildered...

It's been over a month after coming to Little Garden— it's not like he knows very well this ship to the point where he can guide people from outside.

Turning his eyes towards Liddy to seek help, she cut into the conversation because he was in panic.

– That will have to wait, Sakura-sama. From here to Central there is a short distance and since the schedule waits for us, we have prepared a car. I will immediately call it, so wait a brief moment please.

Saying that, Liddy contacted them with the PDA, and the hired car came right away.

It's the same car that Hayato used to get here from the dormitory and the driver is the same.

He guessed that he was waiting for them nearby.

– Please, get in.

Liddy opened the rear door of the hired car.

– Sakura asked an unreasonable thing this time, I am sorry for troubling you.

Saying that, Souffle Clearrail who put on the suitcase in the trunk first, got into the back seat.

– It was nothing unreasonable or anything of the sort. Little Garden is not a

private facility except for some areas, and I think that it is good to let the VIP to view our activities as well so— —

– Your words are of truly great help. Sakura, get in.

– Yes, as you say.

Replying, Sakura got into the car.

Next, Hayato also got into the hired car.

Although there is only one row of seats, the width of the car is wide, there is nothing like the shoulders of the three people touching each other.

Finally, when Liddy got into the front passenger's seat, the car started to move gently.

Sakura was looking at the scenery of Little Garden while singing a song which she was humming from the beginning, and after a short time, she asked Hayato.

– Kisaragi-san, have you heard my songs?

– Well, how to say it, to be honest I'm not that into music...

He was told by Karen that he should listen to music if it's true that he is going to be her bodyguard, but since he was very occupied training as a bodyguard, he couldn't listen to music at all.

– That means, you never heard them before. That's too bad...

Sakura turned her eyes to the outside through the window again, and pouted her lips like saying *Oh my, so disappointing*.

(Hmm, I guess that sudden impression was bad...)

In this case, as he was told by Karen, he should have listened her songs properly, but now he regretted it.

Around 5 minutes after leaving the airport, the car arrived at Central.

– To say that it's the busiest district in Little Garden, when there aren't a lot of pedestrians out there.

As she got out the car, Sakura muttered.

– It is still early in the morning and the stores have just opened, and the

majority of the residents of Little Garden are heading towards the Zwei Islands today.

Liddy explained briefly.

According to her, the road from the side of Little Garden to the Zwei Islands is already open, but she has heard that the opposite road isn't ready yet.

They are anticipating that it will be crowded with tourists that will come from the Zwei Islands side in a few more hours.

– If they realized that Sakura-sama came for sightseeing when there were lots of people, that would turn into a big fuss so, this much was just right.

Then Hayato and the others began to walk through the main street of Central, it's connected like a track-and-field track, it has an elliptical shape.

– Since it's called the *Mega-float* of Warslan Company which is pushing its way in leading edge technology, I imagined it more like a futuristic city, but it's like a commercial district that can be found in any country.

Sakura mutters a little disappointed.

– It is common for us to be told something like that.

Answering, Liddy continued.

– It is possible to have a city that makes use of high technology, but to not bewilder the new residents and students that came to this ship, we aimed for a calm and relaxing city where everyone had immediate familiarity with it, that's why it looks like this.

In other words, it seems that this is the result of having studied and used as a reference a great number of cities.

– Of course, food, entertainment, *etc.* from various countries were gathered.

About what she said, certainly it does feel like that.

Although he came to Central a few times and he still wasn't familiar with the place, he didn't feel out of place as if he came to a foreign country.

He felt that he would get tired of being in a city that makes free use of technology, so this much may be good.

After a while, Sakura raised her voice, 「Ah」and turned her eyes to a certain point.

– My promotional video is being played there.

Music devices and tablet terminals are being sold there, and in the publicity at the storefront of the multimedia shop, on the advertisement monitors, a cute appearance of Kirishima Sakura that looked just like a fairy that comes out in fairy tales was being displayed.

Four-beat drum dance music that sink deep till the bottom of the body. It was cute and lovely, and the melody of up-tempo that was sending out was surging forward to the body similar to a wave—still, Hayato was overwhelmed by the *powerful* singing voice that he couldn't imagine would come out of that little body.

– This is my song, how is it?

Hayato, who finally regained himself with those words, realized Sakura's appearance who was looking up to him with hopeful eyes.

– Somehow, it's amazing...

Those are the only words that came out. Anyway, that video also used the latest CG technology, he couldn't take his eyes from it.

However, Sakura seemed to be satisfied with Hayato's answer, and while showing a smile looking very happy,

– Thank you. Yeah, amazing, *giggle*...

At any rate, Hayato thinks that she seemed to be in a good mood so all was fine.

In this condition, he's going to be able to fulfill his duties perfectly.

They advanced a little further and could see the hired car.

Hayato and the others got in the car.

They went around the main street.

– Sakura, are you satisfied with Central already? If you don't move to the hotel soon, you won't have time later.

– Yes, it's enough. As I was in the airplane yesterday, and since I got in it I couldn't take a bath, and I have to change my clothes...

– Actually, I hate to tell you this but, you don't have much time until the next schedule. You have time for changing clothes, but the time to take a bath is—

– I wonder about it. The next schedule is about listening to the conversation with the governor before noon but...

Sakura frowned the inner corner of her eyebrows looking a little displeased.

– The time of the meeting and luncheon meeting with the governor of the Zwei Island hasn't changed, I would like to have a meeting with the President who planned to meet us at the airport before that...

According to Liddy, Claire is at the Governor General Office and is waiting for the arrival of Sakura and the others to greet them and discuss in advance the security system of the live.

– I am sorry, I thought that both of you were comfortable, I did something impertinent.

Liddy apologized, she felt regretful and bowed her head.

– That being the case it can't be helped. Have some patience and just change clothes.

– But, if it's to talk about greetings and security, I think Souffle alone is enough. I'll go in time to meet with the Governor General before the time of the luncheon meeting, so shouldn't I leave it to you until then, or it's impossible?

– I don't mind but.... Liddy-san, is that okay with you?

– Yes, if Souffle-san alone can come, there is no problem. The greeting with our President will be managed again afterwards.

– Hooray

Saying that in a small voice, the happy Sakura took Hayato's hand.

– Okay then, Kisaragi-san. Let's go to the hotel, just the two of us.

Although they had 2 destinations, the four people decided to ride the hired

car.

The hotel that Kirishima Sakura is lodging is located at the west side where Little Garden is docking, while the members of the Student Council are waiting in the Governor General Office at the east side of the island, *Eastland*.

They are on their way to the hotel.

Hayato and the rest crossed the checkpoint as they were in the car and in about 10 minutes they reached the hotel in the tremendous commercial district.

Sakura got out from the hired car following Hayato who got out first from it and verified the surroundings. Liddy and Souffle remained inside.

– Another car should arrive in about 20 minutes. Please come to the Governor General Office as soon as preparations are completed.

– Understood.

Hayato took Sakura's suitcase out of the hired car's trunk. It was Souffle who told him to bring it to the room.

– Well then, I'll leave it to you.

When Liddy closed the window, the hired car immediately started to move and disappeared from the front of Hayato and Sakura.

There, a pair of men appeared, one of them is an old man who had white hair and a white beard and wore a dark blue suit, the other is a young man who also wears the same dark blue suit.

– Welcome back, Kirishima Sakura-sama. Following your last visit, thank you very much for using our hotel again.

It was the old man who greeted them lowering his head.

Looking at the name plate attached to his chest, he seems to be the manager of this hotel.

– Thank you for your courtesy. However, I don't have much time so I'd be happy if you guide me the room at once.

When Sakura said so, the other young man replied.

– Yes, that is what Souffle-sama told us. I will copy the *key data* to the PDA at the *lobby counter* at once, so please come this way.

– Yes, I understand.

Sakura moved to the *lobby counter* with an experienced look, took out the PDA from her pocket and presented it to the young man.

There, Hayato heard that not only for entering the room but also for the elevator to the suite room on the top floor where Sakura is lodging the *key data* is necessary.

Unless you touch the sensor in the elevator with it, it seems that it won't stop at the floor where the VIP room is, so Hayato also decided to have a copy of the *key data* in the PDA.

– Well then, this way please.

The elevator which the young man led and got on, arrived at the top floor in a matter of seconds.

– Well then, I am sorry for my impoliteness... and, my late introduction. My name is Roy Martin. I have to return to the lobby, if there is something you need, please let us know.

Leaving behind Roy who left his words with them, the door of the elevator closed.

Turning around, they were 5 steps away from the door.

– Shall we enter?

When Sakura held over the PDA to the sensor to the side of the door, the lock was released.

–

–

Sakura didn't move, she was standing in front of the room.

– Why don't you enter?

– Kisaragi-san, you are my bodyguard, aren't you? I think that there's something that you have to do...

Showered with cold words out of the blue, Hayato suddenly realized.

– Right, I have to enter the room first and check if it's safe.

Sakura continued as if she was exasperated towards Hayato who said so.

Somehow, she feels that he changed his behavior a bit up to now.

– ... are you really Kisaragi Hayato, the genius Slayer who saved us and the Zwei Islands from the Savage?

She looked at him with suspicious eyes, as if she was staring with scornful eyes at him.

– Umm, regardless of whether I'm a genius or not, I'm sure that I'm Kisaragi Hayato... it's just that I'm not used to this kind of work so... I'm sorry.

Hayato put a hand on the door knob.

He doesn't know a thing about being a bodyguard. The work contents and knowledge were taught from lecturers dispatched from Warslan's HQ before last week, but because he was overwhelmed by this luxurious hotel and its treatment, he lost his focus.

(I can't get myself together properly)

Saying that to himself, Hayato handled the door knob.

– Then if you excuse me, Ohime-sama.

Being formal, Hayato said that.

Sakura has her eyes half-closed, she was showing an uninterested expression.

– Drop that.

– ...eh?

– It's fine if you call me Sakura. So, I guess it's fine if I call you Hayato too?

– Is... is that so? That's comfortable to me too. If you say that you are okay with it, then I'll do so...

When Hayato said so, Sakura made a big sigh.

– ... I'm amazed. I told you it's fine to call me by my name but, since I'm the client, you suddenly said you* to me, isn't it? I thought that like that, we could

get closer to each other.

***TN: He referred to her as “omae”**

Her way of speaking had small thorns in it.

– Ah... my bad..., no, I am sorry. And, I beg your pardon, I guess?

Because he was told to act in a comfortable way, in the end, he acted as he always does. He thinks that it's a bad habit of his.

– Hayato is a bit clumsy, isn't it? I think that's a little cute, if I say so.

– Cute you say—

He was embarrassed just because he never thought that an Idol would say such a thing to him.

– Anyway, when we are alone, just call me Sakura. But, when we are with other people, address me properly. Are we clear?

– Understood.

– Then please say my name.

– Eh?

– Why aren't you saying my name?

– Umm, Sakura...

– Well then, Hayato. Please do your work ♪.

Sakura said with happiness.

Hayato opened the door and stepped into a luxurious and spacious room.

As the role of the guardian, he checks all the rooms in case someone is hiding or if there's anything suspicious—of course, even in the bath of the toilet.

Of course, with the small sonar that was passed with the gun, he also investigated whether hidden cameras, listening devices and so on weren't installed.

– Nothing out of the ordinary. It seems it's okay.

Returning to the entrance, he reported to Sakura.

– Thanks.

Saying so, Sakura pushed Hayato aside and stepped inside the room.

When Hayato closed the door, it automatically sounded with a clink, it was locked.

The door, as a matter of course, is self-locking.

– Now, finally....

Sakura, who first entered the shoe room, looked backwards, and smiled with a puff.

– We are finally alone, Kisaragi Hayato!

Because of the difference, she was having a looking down on people appearance, and her attitude until now was of a lady, but she feels like a Queen-sama now.



(Err, umm... what, what is this situation?)

Hayato was puzzled with the sudden change, so Sakura opened her mouth.

– The truth is, I was interested in you when I watched the video of the previous resistance. You are this guy, right?

While showing a complacent smile, Sakura pushed out the PDA that she took out of her pocket.

Like she said, the figure of an armed Hayato was there.

– What is, this...?

To the surprised Hayato, Sakura continued.

– It was removed from the *Cybernet*. Looking at this, I got interested in you. And I asked Souffle to do a lot of investigations.

As a result, Sakura got to know that the armed man displayed in the video was Kisaragi Hayato.

– Knowing that Little Garden would visit the Zwei Islands, I decided beforehand to hold a *charity live*. And of course, to nominate you, Kisaragi Hayato, as my personal guard.

Sakura put the PDA in her pocket and smiled in mischief, and this time she holds down Hayato's cheeks with both hands.

– What do you think of me, Hayato? Do you think am I cute?

– Well, that's...

She's cute, right?

Certainly, when looking at her, it's a fact that you surely can't deny it.

– Then, why don't you go out with me? I'd like to go out with you with the premise of marriage.

– Huh...?

What is this girl saying out of nowhere?

– Thinking about our age... besides, neither I nor Sakura are old enough to get married.

– That's something of the past, with our ages it's legal to get married in the

current Yamato, and due to the global population decrease phenomenon caused by the raids of the Savage, it's recommended in every country, for the future of mankind, to have a lot of children with an early marriage. Besides, even more if those are children of Slayers.

He was surprised by the suddenly outrageous remark, but it's just as the girl said.

It's frequent for a child of a Slayer to inherit their characteristics. At the same time they are born, they receive an aptitude examination test as a Slayer, if they have the attributes, the countries covers almost all the raising costs.

– The worldwide popular diva—*—Oriental Wizard* Kirishima Sakura and the young superior Slayer Kisaragi Hayato who showed the highest reaction value of all time of Little Garden—*—I think that it can be interpreted that we are a good match.*

– Well, about that I—

– Don't be humble. You are very attractive.

– Being told, something like that...

What should I do, in this situation?

He never thought of having such a situation just after the two of them got alone in the hotel room.

– Hayato isn't happy because he got near me? Or maybe, you have a lover?

– Eh...

At the same time she said that, the face of Emilia passed through Hayato's mind.

– ...you have one?

Her tone is heavy and strong.

She's glaring at him with sharp eyes.

– No, it's not like that, it's just that I don't know much about Sakura, and I think that it would be weird going out like this. There's an order in this kind of things.

– What? That’s boring. The fun is always in the sudden.

Saying that, Sakura pouted her lips.

(Hmm, what’s the deal with her...?)

First of all, what’s this fun that the girl in front of his eyes know about?

At any rate, even Hayato himself doesn’t know that well yet.

And suddenly, he came up with something.

(Should I try it for a bit?)

Hayato resolved himself and approached Sakura, pushing her body against the wall, he stared at her eyes and said.

– Are you really okay with me?

He tried to say it a little cooler.

He’s absolutely inexperienced regarding how to deal with women, so he tried to escape from this situation by deliberately pushing it.

– Ye, yes.... I said so, isn’t it?

Sakura replied, she was in a puzzled state, surprised that suddenly Hayato became proactive.

So far, it’s as calculated.

– Then, can I kiss you?

Holding with his hand the cheek of Sakura, Hayato brought his face closer.

– Wai-, wait a moment, that sort of thing, I still need to prepare my heart...!

Sakura panicked.

That reaction is what Hayato wanted....

– It-, it seems that I don’t have much time, so this is as far as your teasing can go. I’m going to take a bath!

He felt relieved, seeing Sakura who said so and started running towards the bathroom.

(Anyway, she’s a childish person, huh)

For some reason or other, he thought so.

(But, her *live* songs and gestures are very mature...)

He recalled her gestures and her charming singing voice in the promotional video he watched in Little Garden.

And Karen said that 「The songs and lyrics are composed by Kirishima Sakura-san」, he remembered that they were quite adult-like song lyrics.

(Hmm, I really don't understand girls...)

In any case, he's glad that he could get through the situation.

Hayato moved to the living room, and sit on a soft sofa that was placed there.

The thing that he's thinking about is the video showed by Sakura earlier.

(Does Emile know about that video?)

Not only himself, but Emile was also displayed, though it was for a brief moment.

Although they don't know that she's a woman, he's a little worried, so when he returns to the dorm, he's going to ask Emile about it.

– Hmm...?

Suddenly, a song of Sakura came over there.

As echoes are applied, then the voice echoed, she's probably singing in the bathroom.

(As expected of a professional singer...)

Her singing voice was somewhat comfortable, as it turns out that Hayato doesn't understand about music, but he found it very fascinating.

Somehow, when listening that singing voice, he felt that his mind calmed down.

He kept his back on the sofa, continuing to listen to the song, but then the singing voice of Sakura suddenly stopped.

(Something happened?)

As he was wondering that, this time he heard a voice from the bathroom

instead of a song.

– Hayato, can you bring me the PDA? I hit upon a good melody and phrase, so I want to record them. It should be on the shelf in front of the entrance door, probably.

– Got it, I'll check it.

The impression just now is that, she doesn't seem to be flustered as she was a little while ago.

Hayato first moved to the entrance and decided to check on the side shelf.

Certainly, the PDA of Sakura was placed there, then he took it and head to the washroom that is connected with the bathroom.

(Ah, err...)

At the same time he opened the door, Hayato smiled bitterly.

What is spread in front of him is a wide washbasin where three people are able to brush their teeth at the same time. Of course, the washroom itself is quite large, but that's not the reason of his bitter smile.

He already saw this place when he checked the room, so it wasn't a surprise for him. The cause is that the clothes she took off are scattered all over the floor.

(Good grief, even though there are a lot of shelves...)

Hayato grabbed her clothes while sighing...

(This is typical of a child...)

When Hayato was at the institution, he recalled that he had to tidy up the clothes that the children took off and scattered like this.

(Hmm...?)

At the moment he tried to put the clothes he picked up on the shelf all at once, something like a piece of cloth fell to the floor.

Those were, panties....

At that moment, recalling the interaction with Sakura when he approached

his face, now his face has suddenly become bright and hot.

(Wha, why am I getting flustered...?)

By the way, the underwear is also childish.

At any rate, the design of a bear is printed on it.

So, don't think anything unnecessary.

There's no need to make your heart throb like crazy.

And, he picked it up while telling himself that, and the door of the bathroom opened a little.

– Hey, not yet? Bring it quickly—wha...

The face that came in sight dyed red in an instant.

– Tha-, that...!

Sakura points out, of course, to the panties in Hayato's hands.

– Wh-, why... my, pan-, panties are...

– That, si-, since Sakura took off the clothes and were scattered, I tidied them up so...

– Don't worry about that and hand it over fast! And get out of here!

That wasn't the panties, of course, but the PDA that Hayato had in his hand.

With that in mind, Hayato presented the PDA at once.

Sakura stretched her hand and tried to grab it, but at that moment she lost the balance of her body.

Her feet slid on the floor of the wet bathroom.

– Kyaa!?

Extending her hand, Sakura screamed in panic, but her body was already about to fall to the back.

In this state, she was unable to grab it with her arm to support her body.

DON, the floor made a violent sound.

– Are you okay!?

Hayato opened the door of the bath with a high speed.

What is in front of his eyes is Sakura's figure, who has her buttocks on the floor of the bathroom, and her crotch opened like the M letter....

Not to mention the bulge of her chest, she wasn't hiding the important place of every woman.

– Ouch, it hurts...

Muttering that, Hayato's eyes were pinned to the body of Sakura, who has tears in her eyes.

(She has more breast than what I thought... and that chick toy, why is that...?)

Hayato's heartbeats accelerated more than what he thought, well, it was a pretty feminine body.

– Er-, err... this...

– ...!!

They finally recognized this situation clearly.

Sakura had her whole face dyed in pink and jumped to her feet in panic, then she sat down and basked on the floor.

She was pulling in her eyebrows; her body was shaking.

– Umm, this...

Hayato decided to hand out the PDA for the time being.

Sakura grabbed it quickly,

– Th-, thanks! Also, the bear is special, okay!? It's not that I like it or something!!

Hurried, she stood up and closed the door of the bathroom with a *Slam*.

(Haa, she completely hates me now...)

Sitting on the sofa in the living room again, Hayato sighed profoundly.

To be honest, he was feeling down.

It was because he ended up thinking *What should I do if I'm removed from my*

duty as the bodyguard because of now?

That would mean he has failed his first duty since he joined *Selections*....

(If I apologize, will she forgive me?)

However, he doesn't know to what he must apologize for.

Was it because he was trying to tidy up her panties, or was it because he saw her naked...?

He isn't hearing the humming from the bathroom anymore.

Even though he brought her precious PDA to her, it seems that all that was in vain.

Without coming up with something, only time passed.

Before long, the sound of the hair dryer was heard from the washroom.

After a while, Sakura who finished changing clothes came to the living room.

Unlike a while ago, Sakura was wearing a dress that had a great number of frills.

So far, she was a lovely fairy tale girl, but she seems more like a pure lady of a good family now.

Except the place where she is holding a big stuffed bear in her hands.

Surely it was in that big suitcase.

After putting it on the sofa to take care of it, Sakura turned around in front of Hayato.

– Say, Hayato.... How about these clothes?

She lifted the hem of the skirt and took a pose.

– Eh, well that's... I think you are cute. Wasn't suiting Sakura the one with which you came until here?

– What are you saying?

– Umm, until we came here, it had the perfect image of Kirishima Sakura who was feigning innocence, or something like that...*

***TN: a tricky as hell sentence. ”ええと、ここにくるまでの、猫かぶりたKirishima Sakuraのイメージとぴったりっていうか...”. I’m sure I translated it horribly.**

– ...that answer has 50 points. No, 40 points.

– 40 points, huh...

It was a failing mark.

He’s not good at all in this kind of things.

– Only the part where you told me that I’m cute is the one giving points. And also, there’s the thing about the bath.

– Eh, ah... well. I’m really sorry...

– That answer has 15 points.

– ... then how do I get a passing score?

– If you are a man, think it by yourself.

– I’m not good in that sort of things.

– ... forget it. It’s almost time, so let’s move.

She smiled happily and walked towards the entrance.

Anyway, he was relieved that she wasn’t so upset.

If that’s the case, it is unlikely for him to be fired.

When he came down to the lobby with the readied Sakura, Roy approached them and told them that the summoned car was arriving.

He led the way through the rotary front door of the hotel.

Hayato and Sakura get in the rear seat of the hired car that stopped there.

Away from the central part of the city where the hotel was located, and crossing the bridge that connects the *Westland* and *Eastland*, the after-effects of the raid of the Savage came into view, buildings were destroyed, the road was covered in sediments and so on.

Nonetheless, not all the districts were destroyed. It seems that the Old Town where the Government General Office is, was one of the few fortunate to be safe.

Judging from the appearance of the magnificent building made of stone that came out among them, Hayato and Sakura were next to the building of the Governor General Office, they arrived at the Governor General's official residence.

– We were waiting for you, Sakura-sama.

When they got out the hired car, a man in a suit with two men in military uniform got closer and thanked Sakura deeply.

Hearing his self-introduction, he seemed to be a high official of the Zwei Islands.

– The Governor General is waiting here.

They were guided by that man to a luxurious drawing room that was inside of the official residence.

There, a man who wore traditional costumes handed down by the old inhabitants of the island and Souffle Clearrail were engaged in a conversation.

– Oh! Thank you for visiting the Zwei Islands once again, Sakura-dono.

He probably noticed that Hayato and Sakura came to the room.

The Governor, who ended the conversation with Souffle, approached Sakura and thanked her politely while stretching his hands.

– Greetings, my name is Kareniki Karaniopu, my duty, the one in which I am in charge of governing Zwei Islands as the Governor General, was given by the François Government. Thank you very much for giving me a lot of donations through the François Government, and I am truly grateful that you can make a sympathy concert.

Taking the hand of Sakura, they did a strong handshake, and the Governor General lowered his head many times while their hands were going up and down.

On the other hand, Sakura was different from herself when they were just the two of them, she was dealing with him as if she was an Ojou-sama.

(She really looks like a different person...)

As he thought so, the eyes of the Governor General were directed at Hayato.

– Oh, you really are...

– I (Ore)... no, I (Watashi) am Kisaragi Hayato, a member of the special unit of Little Garden—*Selections*, and the bodyguard of Sakura-sama while she is staying in the Zwey Islands.

***TN: Ore is a masculine way to refer yourself, and changed to watashi that is a formal way to do it (mostly used by women in everyday life but still used by adult men in working environments and the like)**

– Wow, you are the rumored Kisaragi Hayato-dono!

After Sakura, the Governor General grasped his hand.

– I heard from the captain-dono with whom I met earlier, that you were an active role in the previous resistance. Thank you, thank you very much.

– Eh, no... yes.

He felt somewhat embarrassed when he received a direct gratitude like this.

But, he was glad.

Then Hayato and Sakura moved to the reception hall and decided to have lunch with the Governor General. He headed there being told that a small lunch meeting was prepared, but honestly, it was more than he imagined.

The reception hall is like a *party hall*, there are several tables, and there are many people sitting there, regardless of their gender.

It looked like an all-you-can-eat buffet style, with hors d'oeuvre* lined side by side along the walls, with many chefs standing there.

***TN: Appetizers.**

There seem to be various kinds of drinks.

Nonetheless, even when the lunch meeting began, neither Sakura nor Hayato could set their hands on the cookery.

High officials of the Zwey Islands and influential people, even families came to greet Sakura one by one, so they were very busy occupied with those interactions.

Naturally, Hayato was closely standing next to Sakura to protect her.

Sakura was riding a helicopter overnight last night, she hasn't had a decent meal for a long time.

With that much, she was getting tired and was becoming very hungry.

Still, without doing an unpleasant face, Sakura accepted the signs and greetings.

As expected of a professional, she was really amazing, Hayato was impressed, looking at her figure.

Ultimately, it was after near an hour since the lunch meeting began that Sakura could relax and sit on a chair....

– That was arduous... are you tired?

Hayato picked up the cookery and put it on the table where Sakura is sitting.

He feels somewhat like a butler.

He's able to do something like this because there were many SP* and police officials of the Zwei Islands inside the meeting place, so he found that it was safe in there.

***TN: There's no reading for SP in the raw. Maybe Special Police?**

That's why Hayato doesn't have to worry about that much.

– I'm fine, it's always like this.

Listening to those words, he realized again that she's a professional.

And he's aware that there's still some way to go before being a skillful Slayer....

(I must work harder...)

He thought so, and noticed that there was no drink in front of Sakura.

– Would you like something to drink?

– Water is fine. But not a carbonated water though.

– Got it.

Hayato said to himself: *For the time being, I have to do what I can do now.*

– Thanks for your hard work, Sakura-sama. Have you planned something to do after this?

Briefly after Hayato and Sakura finished eating and the lunch meeting was about to end, the Governor General approached Sakura.

– There shouldn't be anything in particular.... Right, Souffle?

– Yes, there is nothing for now. I have a certain preparatory meeting with the support members of the *live* at night, but Sakura will be unoccupied from her work until the rehearsal tomorrow evening. The meeting with the President-san of Little Garden may be set tomorrow at any time.

– Then, shall I show you the tourist spots of Zwei Islands with Souffle-san until the evening of Today?

– Well, I guess.... But, I have been to most of those places already...

Sakura seems to not be very enthusiastic.

– Oh right. Leaving that aside, I wonder if you can show me the *live* venue? I might want to see early what is going on there.

– I understand. Of course, there is no problem.

The Governor General immediately accepted Sakura's proposal, and ordered the man who was nearby.

– Prepare the car and guide Sakura-sama to the venue. At once.

Hayato, Sakura and Souffle, those three people parted with the Governor General and the others and as it was arranged they moved to the *live* venue.

It seems that the distance is around 15 minutes by car.

(Surely this place...)

Hayato, after advancing for 10 minutes, noticed that the scenery when looking outside the window was the same when he fought against the Trenta Savage during the previous resistance.

Although they have cleaned up the debris of the buildings that collapsed by the raid of the Savage and cleared the streets, it's definitely that place.

After a short time, the hired car stopped. It looks like they have arrived at the *live* venue. Hayato got out the car and looked around.

What stood out were the many people who are desperately in the middle of setting up the stage, and speaking of other things, there are several prefabricated ones, and electric poles and electric wires for supplying electricity are there.

– It appears that it's almost completed.

Souffle said that the set of stages, although outdoors, are as close as possible to the state of the original stadium, thanks to the cooperation of the staff from the event company, dispatched by her.

From tomorrow, under the direction of Souffle and Sakura, the setting of detailed lightning, stage equipment, sound, *etc.* will be done.

– At any rate, it's a good venue. A lot of visitors are likely to come in, it will be such a good feeling, to fly around with all my heart.

(... fly around?)

Hayato didn't understand the meaning of the words of Sakura who whispered while looking at the wide vast plain.

– There's a considerable distance to the back, however only on the scale of 100.000 people, I wonder if that's enough? It seems the audience space goes until it hits the cord that is drawn towards the back and if you look closely at it, you can slightly see the cord.

– Probably, I think I can go but...

– What on earth are you talking about?

Hayato threw the question because he didn't understand the meaning of their conversation.

– Come to think of it, Hayato doesn't know about my life style, right?

He already answered that he doesn't know her songs so he was thinking that it wasn't necessary to hide that now.

That's why Hayato nodded.

– Then I'll show you something good. Souffle, do you know if my clothes have already arrived at the dressing room?

– Yes.... Wait, don't tell me that you have the intention to try them on?

– Yes, I trust in this person. I want to go and try them as fast as possible... or it's impossible?

– ... saying such a thing, when you just really want to show Kisaragi-san your stage outfit, isn't it?

Souffle said sort of amazed, and Sakura laughed *tee-hee" to mislead her.

– Well, maybe. I truly think that it's a good opportunity to try them now, so let's go to the dressing room.

– Everything is fine inside of it.

Hayato who moved to the dressing room with Sakura entered first to the room and confirmed that it was safe.

Unlike at the time of the hotel, he was satisfied that he could his work properly this time before he was told to do it.

– Well then, Hayato you wait here.

Saying that, Sakura went into the dressing room with Souffle.

– Eh...?

About half an hour passed and when he saw Sakura coming out of the dressing room, Hayato had his eyes rounded in surprise.

– Thank you for wai...wait, what is with that face?

– I was thinking about the costume, I was wondering if you would wear the same one that I watched at Central.

Even so, Sakura was wearing something like tights that covered her whole body.

After all, when looking with detail at her, she looked very young and her chest is also... he remembered the figure of hers, when she was completely naked in the hotel bathroom, such a thing was on his mind.

- ...maybe Hayato noticed it?
- No, I wasn't looking your chest!
- ...chest you say, what are you saying...?
- Eh, it wasn't that?
- I knew it, Hayato is stupid.

Sakura muttered, exasperated.

- For the time being, let's go to the stage.

Following Sakura who started walking and doing big sighs and Souffle who was going with her, they reached the wing of the stage.

- Hayato, look carefully. I'll show you that this stage is my battlefield.

Sakura started running to the center of the stage with a trot, there she raised her fist high in the sky.

What's inside of it is a reddish-brown ore....

- That's a...

No matter how you see it, it looked like a Hundred.

- maybe Hayato noticed it?

He was thinking over the words of Sakura earlier and understood what she was trying to say.

(I see, those clothes look exactly like a Variable Suit...)

Sakura grasped the ore with five fingers, breathed in and out and shouted.

- <Diva, descend> *HUNDRED ON!*

Shouting, the ore shines in emerald green and wrapped up her body.

Then the shape of the outfit changed instantly to what it looks like a costume of a <small fairy> *elf* living in a forest, those who appear in fairy tales, the same as the promotional video he saw at the center.

On her back are four pinned feathers as well.

- Hayato, this is my Hundred—<<Spinning Tale of a Fairy>> *Fairy Fairy Tale*.

With that said, Sakura kicked up the stage and flew to the sky.

– Awesome...

He couldn't see strings or anything of the sort, and of course it couldn't be CG.

She is genuinely flying in the sky using *sense energy*.

From the four feathers on the back, the appearance of the gorgeous emerald green appears, but like the vapor trail, it draws a beautiful trace in the sky.

(To think, she was indeed a Slayer...)

Dumbfounded, Hayato was chasing the figure of Sakura with his eyes.

– It seems that you are quite surprised.

In response to the voice raised on the back of his body, Hayato looked back.

– ... Charlotte-san, why are you here?

– Hi! It's the first time that I meet you without Emile.

She's the *Main Technologist* of Little Garden, Charlotte Dimandius, and she is with Mei Mei, her assistant that looked like a cat ears maid.

– It's been a long time Hayato-sama,

– Ye, yeah... it's been a while.

Hayato returned the greeting, although he faltered to the tension of the tall Mei Mei as usual.

– ... then, to answer your question. The reason why I came here is to see the stage where the *Variable Stone* is being used. If so, then I can say that you came together with them.

Charlotte, who was looking at Sakura, continued talking to Souffle.

– It's been a while, Souffle Clearrail. She's been growing safely since that time, so I'm very happy for that.

– Charlotte Dimandius. You came, huh.

Souffle noticed the existence of Charlotte as she was getting closer to where Hayato and her were.

– What kind of relationship have the two of you?

– She’s an old colleague. And, a benefactor.

It was Souffle who answered.

– Sakura was involved in an incident a few years ago and wandered around the boundaries of life and death, it was Charlotte who helped me at that time.

– She got that <ability> *power* at the time of such incident.

– That means, she’s just like me——

A Variant.

That word crossed his mind.

– Almost close, but strictly speaking she’s not. Unlike you, she can’t create things like weapons. In that sense she’s close to Emile, but different. A sort of a different Slayer.

– What you mean is, that she can fly in the air as a Slayer?

It was surprising for Hayato, more than anything else.

– It’s a pretty difficult skill. After all, she can only fly within the barrier of the space that were made by herself.

– ...barrier, is it?

– Her Hundred type is a Spatial Controller type——so to speak, a Field type.

According to Charlotte, Sakura, when she deploys her armament, forms a barrier with a certain space as her own area, and operating the *Variable Stone* within the range, she can generate virtual images with *sense energy*, in effect, she’s like an <<Illusion user>> *Illusionist*.

– One of those powers is the ability to fly. She’s floating by manipulating the atmosphere inside the barrier with *sense energy*.

– Because she has such ability, then that’s the reason she’s a <<Singer>> *Idol*?

– That’s not it. Sakura loved songs from the start.

Souffle denied the muttering of Hayato.

– Sakura lost her beloved mother when she was a child due to an attack of the

Savage. Therefore, she continued to sing songs with all her strength as much as she could, in order to give some momentary enjoyment in this painful living world and to heal the children who were hurt by the Savage's attacks just like her.

– That's how Kirishima Sakura— —and Souffle Clearrail fight for this world.

Following Souffle, Charlotte said.

Hayato was shocked when he heard those words.

Because he thought that she was the same as him.

That's why he felt like he could understand Sakura a little.

– How was it, my way of flying? Under normal circumstances, the costume would change according to the song.

Sakura did a lap around the audience seats and came back to the stage, landing next to Hayato. And then, she came near to his body by clinging to him, and asked his impression while looking up at his face.

– To be honest, it surprised me. Because I didn't know that Sakura was a Slayer. Moreover, it's an awesome power.

– Ehehe, if you say so. This stage is my battlefield.

Saying that, Sakura turned a marvelous smile to Hayato.

– Thank you for today. With this, your work is over for today.

Souffle told him that, as her PDA was copying the data of the room key in the lobby of the hotel.

After that, Hayato and the others moved to the hotel, leaving behind the *live* venue with the hired car that was waiting for them.

– Eh, so soon?

It was natural for Hayato to be surprised.

The time has barely passed 3 o'clock, it was too early for his work to end.

He thought that he was fired with that much.

– Perhaps I, did something wrong...?

– That’s not it.

Souffle unintentionally smiled, and continued.

– Since the *live* performance is done on Monday night, preparations and rehearsals are scheduled to be done tomorrow evening. Therefore, Sakura will be on standby until tomorrow afternoon. You can take a rest of your duty of bodyguard until then.

– ... eh, is that true?

– Yes, the center of this city, and inside the hotel, many Slayers are protecting us, so we are safe while we don’t get out from here. Besides, you are still a student, aren’t you? Today it was arranged to summon you earlier than planned, so rest your body at ease from now. I will inform the President as well.

– Thank you very much.

At that time, it was the face of Emile who seemed to be disappointed this morning that crossed Hayato’s mind. If so then tomorrow morning, as an apology for today, maybe he can go to Fisherman’s Wharf together with her.

– Eh, but I have a place that I want to go with Hayato tomorrow...

Sakura was discontent with the proposition of Souffle.

Then, Souffle’s facial expression became grim.

– There are unfinished things yet, like the songs of the album scheduled to be released next month, isn’t it?

– Ugh, don’t tell me that you gave the rest of the day to Hayato in order to make me work?

– Correct.

– Bu-, but only one song, then the half of the day...

– Impossible. We are one week behind the schedule now. The arranger is waiting for them, so finish them by noon tomorrow, are we clear?

– Fiine.

She replied, but with an unhappy tone of voice.

Anyway, Hayato has finished with the task for today— —and he got free time until tomorrow afternoon.

– See you tomorrow, Hayato.

Such expression of Sakura was still in dissatisfaction, it was written on it that she would like to have fun until tomorrow's rehearsal.

– Oh right, once I finished my duty, I had to report it to the President...

When Hayato descended to the lobby using the elevator, he took out the PDA from his pocket and when he was about to contact the President, Roy called him out.

– There is a message for you, Hayato-sama.

– A message you say, from who?

– From Claire Harvey-sama, the President Student Council of Little Garden. To follow my lead and get in the waiting hired car.

– Oh, okay. I understand.

While Hayato was wandering what exactly was, he was guided to the hired car and got in it.

According to the driver, they are going to the holiday house of the Harvey family placed near the harbor where Little Garden is docking.

After near 10 minutes, they reached that place.

– Uwaa, it's so big...

Hayato muttered so, as he descended from the hired car.

Although it's small compared to the Governor General's official residence, it's a pretty big house. It's unmistakably bigger than the dorm where Hayato lives.

– Err...

A big fence surrounds the garden and as he wondered what to do now, the door of the house opened and Chris came out. Unlike usual, he was wearing a shirt and shorts.

– We were waiting for you, Hayato-sama.

– How did you know that I came?

The timing was too good, Hayato asked spontaneously.

– Not so many cars stop around here, so I knew by the sound. And Souffle-san has already contacted us that today's mission has ended so I judged that it was definitely Hayato-sama.

While answering, Chris opened the fence in front of him.

– Please go inside. Claire-sama is waiting.

As Chris said, Claire was planning to listen to the task report from Hayato after returning to the Student Council Room, but as it seems that free time was given sooner, it looks like it will have to be done in this holiday house.

He was guided to a spacious terrace on the second floor of the holiday house.

However, there's a pool of around 25 meters there.

It has three lanes, and Liddy Steinberg, wearing a white one-piece swimsuit, was swimming in one of them.

(So this was the “business” of Liddy-san?)

Perhaps, she's doing rehabilitation?

Speaking of other things, there are two umbrellas set up on the poolside.

A plastic deck chair is placed under each of them, and with the hair untied on one of them, Claire is lying face down—Erika is also lying down on the other deck chair and was reading a book.

Claire's swimsuit is a red bikini, and Erika wears a dark blue one-piece swimsuit.

– Claire-sama, Kisaragi Hayato has arrived.

With that, they noticed the existence of Hayato.

Claire turned her head towards Hayato and lie sprawled as she was.

– Thanks for your hard work, Kisaragi Hayato.

– Well then, I will prepare some drinks.

– Yes, please do it.

Receiving Claire's words, Chris returned to the residence.

– Well, Kisaragi Hayato. It seems that your work finished quite earlier, but did your duty go well?

– More or less, but...

– That is a relief desuwa. I also got a message of gratitude from Souffle-san.

– More than that, President, why are you in that appearance...?

– Why you say, you mean the swimsuit desuno?

– Yes.

– This is a holiday house. A place to relax. And if there is a pool in front of you, then it is natural to wear a swimsuit, don't you agree? Perhaps Kisaragi Hayato is excited because of my swimsuit masuno?

– No, that's not the...

He answered that, but in fact, his heart was beating fast.

At any rate, the breasts of Claire are lying on top of the deck chair, and plenty of the voluptuous bust is spilling from the bra.

Moreover, the string that fastens on the back is unfastened, making the side of the breasts visible.

– Your innocence goes beyond my expectations, Kisaragi Hayato. Isn't your face red masenwayo? If you like, I can show you my swimsuit properly and make it even more red, so should I?

– Please wait a moment, President!

Without thinking, Hayato raised his voice.

Erika did the same.

– Claire-sama, don't do it! In this very moment I was spreading suntan lotion on——

Erika got up with enough momentum to drop the book she had in the poolside, raised her body and shouted to Claire who was trying to take a

posture like a gravure model but it was too late.

The swimsuit that should hide the two swellings fell off from the chest of Claire and two beautiful pink protuberances met the eyes of Hayato.

– ... eh?

For an instant, she didn't know what happened, However, she seemed to have understood that the bra fell on the floor.

– Kyaah!?

Claire hurriedly hid her chest with both arms and crouched, screaming with tears floating in her eyes.

When he noticed it, Liddy was standing up from the pool with a demon-like appearance.

– Hey, Kisaragi Hayato, what are you staring at!?

Liddy approached Hayato with a quick pace and put a hand on his shoulder.

– Uwaah!?

– Wha!?

However, due to Hayato who lost his footing, and was about to fall, Liddy also lost the balance of her body.

They slipped——

Liddy slipped forwards, her figure was as if she was looking up, and Hayato also slipped looking up, but to his back.

Then, both of them tangled and fell to the poolside.

The front of Hayato's eyes were in total darkness with that.

However, he had an idea about the soft warmth that he was feeling hear his abdomen.

(This is, no way...)

He felt it when he pushed down the President during the battle, the feeling of the President's breasts.

It was almost the same as that time——no, these breasts have a little of

tension... wait, this is not a situation to analyze it.

(For now, I can't move...)

He thought, and opened his eyes in panic——

– Uwaah!

What he saw was a white swimsuit that was driving between her dark brown buttocks. That means——

– Ua, aaa...

Following the voice of Liddy that reached him weakly, the butt came closer to his face...



It's soft and it feels a little good, but he can't bear the agony.

– A, aagh...

– Li-, Liddy, what are you doing desu!?

– E-, even if you tell me, I don't know!

Liddy seems to be confused, she didn't understand the situation well.

Jumping up as she was, she was trying to crush the face of Hayato with her butt.

– Stand up at once, otherwise Kisaragi Hayato will be in trouble!

– ...fuee?

As it was told by Erika, she was finally aware of the situation.

– Hyaaaah!

While screaming, Liddy stood up rapidly.

Claire's state was the same, she was crouching down and holding down her swimsuit...

It was the voice of Chris that reached the ears of Hayato who was stretching as he was, lying down on the poolside.

– What did happen here, everyone?

Chris, who saw Hayato and the others at the entrance of the terrace, naturally, he didn't understand the situation, and with glasses containing tropical drinks in his hand, he was showing a dumbfounded expression.

– ...so, I called you here because there is something that I have to tell you that wasn't reported to you for the duties of today desu.

Claire, who cleared her throat with a cough, headed towards Hayato and sat in front of him, she fixed her swimsuit and began to talk.

Athough Claire's face is still under a slight redness, her tone and expression are serious.

– Actually today, from the conversation I heard between Souffle Clearrail-san, the president of the producer company of Kirishima Sakura and the Governor-

General... and, before that, did you know about the Hundred being used for the live of Kirishima Sakura?

– Yes, that happened today, although Sakura showed me the armament deployed...

– ... Sakura?

It probably weighed on her mind that Hayato called her name as if they were close.

Claire's eyebrows moved with a twitch.

– Why are you addressing the name of the person to escort with such familiarity?

– No, Kirishima-san, told me to call her like that...

– ... is that so? If she wished for that, then it's fine but.... Aren't you taking a strange distance masenwane? You will be incapacitated to be her bodyguard, as things like invitations, and romance can end up leading to something like a love relationship with the person to protect desuwayo.

– Of-, of course I am aware of that.

At any rate, he instructed himself with the bodyguard's <<text book>> *manual*, as that kind of things were also written there.

– Anyway, if you know about her Hundred, then let's go to point desuwa. Not only the Hundred, but also on the stage of Kirishima Sakura a variety of new technologies are being used, that use a *Variable Stone*. However, this seems to have been stolen from the *live* venue after the resistance.

The *Variable Stone* is a rare item, only a very small amount is on the earth.

It's traded under strict control of the United Nations at a price that isn't far from gold or platinum.

Therefore, its value is considerable, it isn't unknown to be stolen.

– Be that as it may, there it is very probable that a looter aimed at the opportunity of the Savage raid, it is possible that such a person may appear masu. Just to be sure, we will be arranging Slayers to be continuously around

the venue, but if you catch sight of a suspicious person, please contact us, the members of the Student Council, as soon as possible, are we clear desuwane?

– Understood.

Hayato nodded firmly.

– Well then, the conversation of your <duty> *work* is over with this desuwa. Let's talk about something more private.

Saying that, the President rose from the deck chair and walked to the poolside. She stopped in front of the shower installed on the wall. She spun the faucet and started to wash her body. Claire opened her mouth, thinking that it was wasteful as she was just specially spread with suntan oil.

– Kisaragi Hayato, won't you do a *revenge match* with me masenka?

– '*Revenge match* you say'...?

– A *revenge match* of the previous duel desuwa.

While saying that, Claire started walking towards the edge of the pool.

– I said that I should be the defeated one, but in Charlotte's judgment it was a draw. As the result was that, let's settle it.

– No, that's a... In that battle, I was the one who lost for sure, and a battle here is...

– Although I said revenge, as a matter of course, it won't be something were we will be using our Hundred.

– Huh...?

I won't conduct you to use energy when you are still in the duty of bodyguard masenwayo. How about a swimming match?

That said, Claire jumped into the pool from the diving board.

The limbs boasting beautiful curves advanced gently through the water.

That figure, she looked like a mermaid.

– What do you say, Kisaragi Hayato— or should I think that you can't swim?

Turning up from the water, Claire asked Hayato.

– Swimming? I can swim but... Please forgive me for today. I don't even have a change of clothes.

– About that matter, I can prepare something right away masuwayo.

– No, I'm sorry...

– ... don't go with that masenwane. It is fine if you have just a bit of fun.

As she said so, Hayato saw the President pouting her lips, she was different than usual, as that's something that normal girls do anywhere.

Although there were unexpected surprises (?), Hayato safely left behind the holiday house of the Harvey family and arrived in front of the men's dorm with the hired car.

In the end, he didn't enter the pool, he turned down the invitation of Claire.

His body was strangely tired even though he hardly walked, it may be because he wasn't accustomed to get in cars a lot of times.

– I'm back.

Despite being evening, the lobby of the men's dorm was completely silent.

Usually there are people at this time, but there's nobody today.

He guessed that surely everyone went to visit the Zwei Islands.

– The first thing to do is to take a bath...

In this dorm, the bath is scheduled to grow hot at 5pm every day.

The time has just passed that hour right now.

(By any chance, will I be taking a bath before everybody...?)

Hayato, the first one to take a bath, returned to his room with excitement and headed for the underground bathhouse with a change of clothes.

– ... hmm?

Hayato arrived in front of the bathhouse and stopped his feet, standing

upright.

It was because the sign of 『Under Cleaning』 was standing in front of the door.

Except for the days of cleaning the water accumulated in the bath by the contractor during the week, the students also do simple cleaning.

Apparently, today's cleaning isn't over yet.

Maybe they were delayed in cleaning, visiting the Zwei Islands.

(Who are the persons in charge today?)

Hayato looks at the duty table on the wall.

What was written there was the name of Emile.

(That girl, were you doing it all by yourself today?)

In any case, thinking of asking when the cleaning will end, Hayato handled the door while ignoring the 『Under Cleaning』sign.

– Huh...?

The door won't open.

It seems that it's locked.

When touching the sensor with his finger, the letters 『LOCK』 emerged.

(But, Emile is inside, isn't it?)

At any rate, there's a 『Under Cleaning』 sign standing there.

This time, he held the PDA against the sensor, and the door opened.

(I knew it, it's Emile...)

Hayato and Emile were originally in the same room, so the security keys of the doors are the same.

He was thinking that maybe she changed it because she's in a different room now, but it's still the same, Hayato doesn't know how she did it.

Hayato stepped into the dressing room and proceeded to the door of the bathhouse, which turned into a frosted glass.

– Emile, are you here?

While calling her out, Hayato opened the door.

— — — Hayato!?

He heard a surprised voice that echoed.

At the same time, what was reflected in Hayato's eyes is the figure of Emile Crossford cleaning— — which it wasn't, it was the figure of Emilia Hermit who was naked and submerged in the hot water...

— Wha, why, you...

It's been a while since he saw Emilia leaving the figure of her hair down, and because it was wet with the water, it was very sexy.

— Ho-, how, how did Hayato come in!!??

Her face was dyed red and hurriedly hid her chest with her arms and sunk into the bathtub as much as leaving the upper half of her face outside of it.

— Well, I was thinking to ask when the cleaning was going to end— — and, why are you in the men's bath!!??

— Because, I was interested somehow in what hot springs are.

Emilia buried half of her face in the water, and when she answered, bubbles were rising to the surface.

— 'Interested', you really.... What would you do if it was exposed that you are a woman!?

— That's why I put out the "Under Cleaning" sign and locked the door, you know? How did Hayato unlock the security?

— You and I have the same security key. That's why I could open it.

— Oh, right... Now that you mention it, that's true.

— So, why haven't you changed the key?

— If I do so, then I won't be able to enter Hayato's room.

Noticing that Emilia was inflating her cheeks as her shoulders were coming out from the hot water surface, the line of her nape was clearly visible.

If he casts his gaze down as he was, he can see the middle of the bulge on her

chest.

And barely there, he could see the tip of the scar on her chest.

– Umm, let me know when you get out of the bath.

Hayato tried to turn back while his heart was going *DOKI DOKI* when a voice raised on his back.

– It's fine like this.

– It's fine like this you say, what do you...

While turning his head, Hayato asked.

– That means that I want to take a bath with Hayato. If I'm submerged, you won't see my body.

– See? I won't see, but I don't think that's the problem here...

– But in Yamato is a common thing for men and women to enter a hot spring together, right? Previously, after Hayato told me about the hot springs, I studied and investigated a lot from them. And I get to know about the mixed bathing.

Emilia looked very proud saying that.

– Certainly, there are mixed bathing...

– Right!? So it's not an issue to take a bath like this. I also wanted to taste the feeling of mixed bathing with Hayato. So come on, let's take it together.

While Emilia is immersed in the bathtub, she rapidly stretched both hands.

... "mixed bathing", should he say that such a thing doesn't exist in Yamato?

(Well, if Emilia is okay with it, then I guess it's fine to do it together?)

It's rare to have an opportunity to submerge in a bathtub with a woman.

– Come on Hayato, hurry up!

– Err, first of all, I have to leave for a moment. I can't take a bath with my clothes on.

– Oh, you are right. Then, bring me my bath towel too.

Hayato went to the dressing room and took off his clothes, and hid the important thing of a man that shouldn't be seen with a towel on his waist and entered the bathhouse for a second time.

Of course, he was carrying the bath towel of Emilia as he was told.

– Welcome back, Hayato.

When he opened the sliding doors and entered the bathhouse while being nervous, *Splash*, the sound of submerging in the hot water echoed on the walls.

He was already submerged in the bathtub in the same way as her just now, but after a brief moment, he went outside of it again.

– Here, this.

For now, Hayato handed over the folded bath towel to Emilia, then looked to the wooden structure that is piled up near the entrance, and moved to the place where the showers on one area of the bathhouse are lined up.

There are 10 faucets and showers in the bathhouse.

He placed a chair in front of one of them, sit on it and began to wash his body with a body soap placed in front of his eyes.

When he peeked at the state of Emilia, he noticed that she was watching him from inside the bathtub with a friendly grin.

– Hayato, would you like me to wash your head?

– I'm fine!

She was saying something outrageous. Hayato rapidly took shampoo in the palm of his hand and began to foam his head.

And then, when he ended foaming it.

He stood up with the lower body hidden with a towel and turned his eyes towards the bathtub, where the figure of Emile submerged in hot water was still there.

– Won't you be dizzy by if you are submerged for a long time in the bathtub? In <your country> *Britannia*, there's no cultural practice of being submerged in a bathtub like this, right?

– What is ‘dizziness for being submerged for a long time’?

It seems that she didn’t even know that.

– Your head is dazed and your moves are unsteady.

– I certainly feel like that now that you told me, but if it’s a bit more, I think I can handle it somehow. Besides, I’m still not having a mixed bathing with Hayato.

It seems that Emilia wants to be submerged in a bathtub with Hayato no matter what.

Of course, Hayato is already familiar with her personality.

If he keeps Emilia waiting, she will surely continue being submerged in hot water until she faints.

Besides, there’s a possibility that someone will come to the bathhouse.

Although the door is locked, it will be troublesome.

Since he was able to declare so, it’s an inevitable situation even if dangerous rumors are raised such as male bonding.

– Come on, Hayato. Enter fast.

– In that case, please turn to the back for a couple of seconds.

Otherwise, if he removed the towel of his waist, she’ll see his important place.

Emilia seemed to notice that as well.

– Ye-, yeah... understood...

She turned her back, while she was answering and blushing in pink color.

In that gap, Hayato submerged in the bathtub.

– Ehehe, a mixed bath.

Emilia looked back happily saying so.

Of course, her back was towards him. she just turned her neck.

– Water and women, huh...

Muttering so with a small voice, Hayato sighed.

– Water and women? What does that mean?

– The truth is, I was talking about fortune telling with Karen on the phone this morning. She told me to be careful with water and women.

– What in the earth does that mean? Is it because you don't like to be in a mixed bathing like this with me? Besides, why in plural...? Something else happened? By any chance, were you having a mixed bath with Kirishima Sakura...?

– That's not the reason...

– Is that true?

Emilia turned only her neck and stared at Hayato with half-opened eyes.

– It's true.

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That was his answer, but her doubt didn't clear up.

And without a change, she kept glaring at him.

– More importantly, I have something that I want to tell you.

– Hayato, now you are trying to dodge the issue.

– That's not it. I have to tell you something really important.

– Then I guess I'll hear you. What would be that important matter?

– Do you know if there are any sites where you can watch videos on the *cybernet*?

– I know them but... why are you asking about them?

– Some videos of us were uploaded in them. Sakura showed me a video of the time of the latest resistance.

– Eh,,,?

Emilia showed a momentary surprise, but she immediately knitted her brows in doubt and glared once again at Hayato.

– I'm very worried about that but, before that, I have something I'd like to ask.

– ...hmm, what is it?

– Now, instead of Kirishima Sakura, you just plainly called her as Sakura. Aren't you being a little more than familiar as the companion of the escort target person?

Oh no! Hayato thought.



Following the time with the president, he did it again.

- Well, Kirishima Sakura told me to call her like that...
- Fuun, it seems suspicious to me.
- Suspicious you say, why do you say so...?
- Woman's intuition.

Saying it with clarity, Emilia continued.

- Hayato, do you have something with Kirishima Sakura?
- Nothing.
- ...really?
- It's true.
- *stares...*
- Well, even if you stare at me that much....

There's no way that he can say that she told her to marry her and to have children with her, even if she was just teasing him.

- More importantly, let's return to the conversation of our video. I was glad that they didn't get to know that your armed figure wasn't of a woman.
- Hmph, Hayato is trying to dodge the subject...
- You are wrong.... Leaving that aside, were you aware of this video?
- Nope, it's unknown to me. The video of the Savage was supposed to be uploaded to sites with international law, don't pay too much attention to it.
- On that subject, Sakura said the same.
- Hayato, you said Sakura again!

Emilia stares at him again with a sullen expression.

- A-, anyway, if Emilia isn't worried, then that's fine.
- That they didn't get to know that I'm a woman, right? Then, I think that's fine too but.... Just in case, I'll check it afterwards. If it turns out to be grave, then we can't stay here doing nothing. With that said, should we return to the conversation of Hayato and Kirishima sakura?

– Let's do not. Besides that, why don't we go together to Zwei Island tomorrow?

– Eh...

Emilia, who suddenly received the invitation of Hayato, had an astonished expression.

– There are no bodyguard duties to do tomorrow?

– Because she will be writing songs in her hotel room until noon, I have to do them in the afternoon. The hotel seems to have another guards in it.

– Hooray!

Emilia spread her hands and jumped over, as she couldn't control her joy.

– Wai-, you!

– Uwaa!?

Hayato rapidly avoided the situation there, Emilia thrust into the hot water from her face.

Splash, a sound like a balloon exploding echoed in the bathhouse.

– What are you doing...

– Those should be my words!

Hayato answered, turning his face away.

– Oh, Hayato. Are you getting red?

Emilia brought near her body while showing a smile and grinning.

– ...!!

As Hayato felt the feeling of soft skin, he had trouble breathing, and his whole body became numb.

– Hey, stop!

In a hurry, Hayato tried to get away from Emilia, pushing her body with both hands.

– Eh...

– Eh...?

Hayato froze, feeling the fluffy sensation in both hands.

-. Are these...

When he turned his line of sight to the end of his arms, he realized that both hands were grasping the bulge on the chest of Emilia.

– U, uwaah!!

Panicking, he separated both hands from her chest and turned his back to Emilia.

Emilia did the same, she turned her back to Hayato.

(What the hell did I just do...)

This is the second time including the event of today, and even though he ended up rubbing the ones of the President, this is the first time that he rubbed breasts directly.

(They were very soft...)

They were like marshmallows.

– U-, umm...

Emilia's voice reached his back, she was kind of bewildered.

– I guess I should leave soon. My head is spinning.

– Is, is that so? I think you should leave soon.

– Yu-, yup... I'll do that.

Emilia obediently agrees, but he can't hear the sound when coming out of the bathtub.

On the contrary, he couldn't even hear the sound of her rising.

– ... you aren't coming out yet?

– Well, I'm really dizzy.

Ahaha, she laughed.

That wasn't a joke, she was really feeling dizzy.

TAP TAP he heard footsteps.

It took a while before Emilia left the bath.

After coming out of the bath, Hayato ate a light dinner.

Today there are many people who ended up eating outside, there are quite few people eating in the dining room.

Today it's a national holiday, originally there was no dinner, but if you made an order in the kitchen then they would make it, so Hayato asked for a sandwich and went to get it.

By the way, Emile, wasn't coming to the cafeteria, as she was feeling bad, she felt dizzy and said that dinner wasn't necessary.

Hayato returned to his room after a while and lay down on the bed and decided to take the PDA and accessed the search sign of the internet.

It's what he thought when trying to find the video that Sakura showed him.

However, he couldn't find anything regarding him*...

***TN: He wrote his name in the search sign.**

Instead, he found Kirishima Sakura's live video distribution site, where there were a number of song titles and thumbnails lined up.

Apparently, with 3 dollars you can buy a video—enough money to buy 2 juice PET bottles. Because the PDA will do the payment, the only thing that Hayato has to do is to enter the password.

— Let's try this.

He chose the one with the thumbnail of Sakura that had the same costume as today and he downloaded it.

The download was completed in about a minute, and tried to play the video.

— Incredible...

Hayato muttered at the same time that the video was played on full screen in the PDA.

The stage using the *Variable Stone*, it looks very beautiful and fantastic.

The figure of Kirishima Sakura as a fairy that stands in the center of the dark stage...

Together with the intro of the song, the stage changed in an instant into a forest of a different world with trees shining faintly.

At the center of it, Kirishima Sakura is singing while dancing splendidly.

(Err, come to think of it, I forgot to get a sign...)

While listening to the song and watching the video, he remembered the promise with Karen.

However, there are three more days of bodyguarding. There will be a lot of opportunities to get one after this.

(For now, I'm going to sleep...)

At the same time as the song ended, Hayato installed the PDA in the charger at the bedside, turned off the lights in the room and fell into sleep.

Under a nearly perfect moon floating in the night sky.

In the wilderness around a kilometer from the venue, there was a young boy with a thing like a spear with a blade attached on both ends and two girls were standing with him.

The three of them had a dark brown skin, were wearing a black Variable Suit that blends in the night and were staring at a certain point.

— ... as expected, the security seems to be tough this time.

The one who murmured was the aloof boy who has ruffled up hair and lightly ties a portion of it behind his neck.

Their line of sight was directed to the *live* venue of Kirishima Sakura.

Under his feet, there's a corpse of a Savage——

It's almost the same size and appearance of a normal type that Hayato and the others have defeated in the resistance one month ago.

– ...are we giving up the *Variable Stone*?

Asking the boy is a girl with a black eyepatch with the same shape of his weapon and who also has her hair ruffled up.

– Nee-chan, we won't give up anything, it's time to begin. We'll carry our plan after the *live*.

It was a girl with short twin tails who had two <circles> *rings* in her hands that clicked her tongue when listening to those words.

All the weapons of the three people are of course—Hundred.

– It's fine if we do it now, isn't it? The Slayers of Little Garden are small fries, don't *ya* think? We can windswept 5, 6 people in that place. It's easy.

The eyes of the girl with the rings were directed to the Slayers who were defending the *live* location.

– What are you saying, huh? If we steal now, the *live* will be cancelled, you know.

– What's the problem with that? Are *ya* a fan of Kirishima Sakura or something?

– I'm not interested in her nor her songs. But, the inhabitants of this island are looking forward to the *live*. Then, it'll be good to snatch away the *Variable Stone*. When we came to see what kind of situation was, we even encountered a harvest.

The man pierced the corpse of the Savage under his feet with one blade of the weapon he was holding.

Whoosh, the scattering fluorescent color of liquid adhered to his face, it shines eerily with the moonlight illuminating.

– Fine. I guess I can endure it with this guy.

– That's how it is.

He nodded in regard to the girl with two rings and replied while looking at the

Savage's corpse with his mouth looking like a crescent moon.

– Because at any rate we, we are the allies of the human beings.

Chapter 3: Emilia *Date* How the Diva was born

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP, with the sound of the PDA ringing at this side, Hayato opened his eyelids.

(It's morning huh...)

He woke up and got out of bed and left the room to go for breakfast as he was and,

— — —Uwaah!?

Emile standing in front of the door raised a loud voice.

It seems that she was trying to open the door by putting over the PDA on the sensor.

— Ahaha, you woke up. And I just thought to go and wake you up.

— Wake me up you say, I said that you shouldn't enter my room as you please, isn't it...?

— But then, you said that you were going to reset your security code, right?

— Since that's something I can't do, you said you were going to change the one of your room. Because this is similar to the thing of yesterday...

The thing of yesterday is, of course, the large bathhouse.

— But, it's the same because if Hayato wants to enter my room, you'll be able to get in. Doesn't that make you a little happy?

— No, I'm not going...

— Hayato was happy that we could have a mixed bath together yesterday, right?

Hayato was happy.

— ...!!

Recalling the nude body of Emilia that he saw in the bath yesterday, his face

got red.

– Ahahaha, Hayato is getting red.

Looking at Emile innocently laughing, Hayato breathed with a big sigh.

If other people were watching this exchange of words, they would receive a weird misunderstanding from that.

But nobody is in the corridor.

– Let's go get some food soon.

Abruptly turning his face away, Hayato started to walk.

– Yeah, free time is limited after all. Let's start with eating a meal quickly.

– No, that's not what I mean...

– Okay then, what do you mean?

– Hmm, err,,,

Today's free time is until noon. He has been decided to go out with Emile during the morning.

– Mm, Hayato's weird.

Anyway, he should be glad that he escaped from a dangerous situation.

After that, they had breakfast and then took a bus near the dorm.

Since they docked in the Zwei Islands and until the checkpoint established between the island and the ship, the route is going to be extended.

Nonetheless, there was no need for Hayato and Emilia to receive an inspection at the checkpoint, and were able to disembark on the Zwei Islands, so it was almost a *free pass*.

It seems to be a special measure since they are Slayers— and also, members of the elite forces under direct control of the Student Council, known as *Selections*.

(Now that I remember, I passed by in the car yesterday...)

And, Hayato remembered, and as far as he could see, that the travelling of the residents of Little Garden to the Zwei Islands, whether they were ordinary

persons or not, it seems to be just the personal authentication on the PDA.

Therefore, unlike the checkpoint of the people entering Little Garden from the Zwei Islands, it is quite open.

However, the machines that were lined up in a corner, from which you can withdraw money from a bank account and can be used in the Zwei islands were quite congested.

Since PDAs have electronic money functions and credit card functions, they don't have much cash to pay in the Zwei Islands.

However, unlike Little Garden, which basically doesn't use cash, transactions with coins and bills is still the most used, and there are many stores that doesn't support this type of device, so that's why a lot of people stop there to have physical money.

Of course, it's possible to convert rates in the PDA and use banks and ATMs in the Zwei Islands to withdraw coins and paper money, but that's a bother and it looks problematic to operate, so Hayato and Emilia will exchange money here.

They were around 10 minutes standing in the line.

– Did you bring your wallet, Hayato?

– Yeah, it was the one I was using in Yamato.

– To be honest I forgot mine. Can I leave it to Hayato?

She goes steadily on foot and crossed the gate, stepping into the Zwei Islands.

Outside the checkpoint there's a bus terminal, from which buses leave from here to everywhere in the Zwei Islands.

– Where do you want to go?

Hayato asked, he thought that he hasn't asked the important destination yet.

– We'll have fun when we get with the bus there.

In other words, it seems that the destination isn't Fisherman's Wharf, which is nearby.

On the contrary, the bus he got on accompanied by Emile was heading towards *Eastland's* Old Town.

– The place you wanted to go was *Eastland*, no?

– It's rare to go out from Little Garden, and I want to spend time with Hayato feeling different from usual*.

***TN: that means, no crossdressing nor holding herself.**

– What does that mean...

– Arriving there, we'll have a lot of fun. We still have time, so it's fine, right?

It was the Old Town of *Eastland* when they got off the bus.

There are many old buildings, and somehow, a sight that reminds them the city of Gudenburg is spread in front of them.

– The store that I want to visit is in this direction, follow me.

Following Emile who started to walk first, Hayato started to walk too.

– Umm, here it is...

Emile stopped her feet in front of a massive giant building made of stone that noticeably stands out in the middle of the Old Town

– With here you mean this clothing shop?

The building in front of them was built with old architecture, but the walls on the first floor were mostly glassed, reaching the point where the interior is visible.

They could see the signboard of the brands that even Hayato knew about.

– Yeah, it's for both sexes, there are various clothes and accessory brand shops, it holds a lot of them, and I haven't done much shopping since I came here (Little Garden), so I wanted to come to buy something that I want. This, even among the Zwei Islands, it's pretty much a popular fashion building.

– It really looks very spacious and that they sell a lot of things.

The lot area is huge except for the parking lot where hundreds of vehicles next to the building are likely to park.

– Let's enter for the time being.

Hayato also continued after Emile who stepped inside the fashion building.

(The store interior is spacious, just like I thought)

In most of the space on the floor, the brand shops looked crowded, but places like tea shops and light food shops were not so.

– Hayato, wait around here for a minute.

Emile suddenly said that and entered the building.

His line of sight is directed towards a two-seat bench, where several of them are placed side by side.

It seems like he'll be sitting there.

– Well then, I'll be right back in 10 minutes.

– Ah, hey... wait!

Even though he called her out, Emile ran up the stairs dashing.

(What is wrong with her?)

In blank amazement, he followed the back of Emile with his eyes.

After her figure disappeared, he thought that he should sit down and wait in a bench, but he noticed that all of them were occupied.

Hayato, who lost his place, decided to take a look to what kind of shops and signboards were there and looked into the nearby shops.

What caught his attention was the accessories and small articles department near him.

There's a wallet in the items on sale.

(Come to think of it, she didn't bring her wallet...)

He thought about buying one for her, but what Emile likes is unknown to him, and even though the variety was scarce, he wavered.

At any rate, Emile's original appearance is of a woman.

(Although she's dressing as a man, I guess it might be better to forget about a feminine wallet)

Thinking that sort of thing, a voice on his back called him out.

– Thank you for waiting, Hayato.

– ...

Hayato who looked back with that voice got speechless.

– What’s wrong, Hayato? Maybe these clothes don’t suit me?

– N-, no, that’s not the problem. Why are you in your female appearance!?

She not only loosened her hair.

Emilia was wearing a lovely dress with lots of frills, like what an Ojousama wears.

Because of that, he was strangely conscious that she’s a woman, and the proximity made his heart beat fast.

– Well, it’s the long-awaited date, I thought that this is better for it.

She laughed with *Ahaha* while rubbing the back of her head.

Even the facial expression of hers seems to be more feminine than usual.

– I wonder if Hayato also thought that it’d be better in this way?

– Even if you tell me that... What would you do if you were to be seen by someone of the martial arts department....

– Relax. We don’t have many acquaintances who would come to this place, and because it’s morning, the possibilities aren’t that much to encounter them. Anyway, it takes almost an hour to get here from Little Garden. And everyone ended up shopping in *Westland*.

– That may be true.

– That’s why it’s precious, so let’s have a proper date between a man and a woman.

– I wonder if this is really fine...

Certainly, when looking around there’s no one wearing the uniform of Little Garden.

– Hayato is worrying too much. If Hayato changes his clothes, we’ll be good to go. We won’t be exposed at all.

- I also have to change clothes?
- The dress of Slayer stands out too much as one would expect.
- I certainly think that it's obvious but still.
- Why don't you try sunglasses as well if you like?
- I guess but going that far is...

He was feeling too conscious and embarrassed.

- Apart from that, Hayato, what were you looking?

Saying that, Emilia peered in the shelf behind Hayato.

- A wallet. You don't have one, right? So, I thought I'd buy one for you.
- If I'm not mistaken, Hayato will buy me one?
- I thought to do so but.... Which one do you like?
- Well, let me see... this one.

After hesitating a little, Emilia took a cute, pink wallet, the one used by women, in her hands.

- Err, it will be difficult to use that when crossdressing...
- In any case I'm not going to show it in Little Garden, it's so I can use it here today. Besides, it would be pointless to not use something that it's usable. But I'm happy that Hayato is buying this for me.
- Are you sure about that?
- Yeah, I'm sure. Then, let's see over there.
- Over there...?

Ahead the line of sight of Emilia is an accessory department where rings and necklaces are being sold.

- I wonder what I want to put on in this precious situation. They'll be my memories with Hayato.
- Then, should we go and take a look?
- Yup!

Emilia moved to the accessory department, she was an ordinary girl now.

– That looks nice.

– Ah, that's beautiful too, don't you think?

Her eyes were sparkling as if they were jewels. Particularly, her favorite seems to be a silver necklace. She looked into the showcase with the intention to bite into it.

– Would you like to give it a try and put it on?

– Is that ok?

– Sure, please go ahead.

Emilia, who was called out by a young female shop assistant who approached them, decided to try on the necklace.

– What do you think Hayato, does it suit me?

– Umm, yeah... I think it suits you.

Hayato turned his eyes to the necklace on her neck. He thought that it matched the color of her hair, it really suited her.

– Whee, Hayato saying that to me makes me very happy.

– It really really suits you.

The shop assistant looked at Hayato with a friendly grin as if she chose that timing to do it.

(Either way, I was going pay for it so...)

He had a hunch that it was inevitable. Anyway, it's a date.

– Then, let's buy it?

– Are you sure?

– Ye-, yeah...

– Hooray!

Emilia was showing it joyfully jumping up and down, she was showing the best smile on her face today.

Eventually Hayato decided to buy the necklace with cash including the wallet of earlier.

It's been really a while since he went shopping with cash.

He was worried how much would it be since he didn't see the prices, but when he saw the cash register, he was relieved because it wasn't so expensive.

Emilia was very pleased.

– Ehehe, I did it. I got a present from Hayato.

And, tampering with the fingers to put the necklace on her neck, she showed a smile.

If she's pleased with only this much, then that makes him happy too.

– Here's the other one.

Next, Hayato handed over the wallet and the cash that he had in his wallet to Emilia and bought them together.

This is the end of their first shopping.

– Well then, shall we go shopping for Hayato's clothes?



Hayato and Emilia walked towards the men's department as it was on the first

floor.

– Come to think of it, what kind of clothes does Hayato like?

Upon arriving at the men's department, Emilia asked.

– Even if you tell me what kind, I don't really understand such thing.

– There's nothing you like in particular?

– When I was in Yamato, what I wore were presents. There was no money.

The matching was left to my little sister.

– Then, can I choose Hayato's clothes today?

– Yes please, my thanks for that.

– Hooray!

Emilia makes a triumphant pose with one hand in happiness.

– On that subject, how are my clothes? Are these to the liking of Hayato?

Following the question, and for a second time, Hayato stared at the figure of Emilia.

– Hmm, I think they are fine, I guess? I think they suit you.

– Are you serious? You think they suit me, huh. If you are unable to stomach my clothes, then Hayato may choose them for me. I'll buy them too. I'll wear what Hayato likes.

– Even if you told me what I like...

He looked at Emilia's clothes once again.

The overall exposure of the white one-piece dress that has a long skirt is minimum.

Compared to the casual clothes of Sakura that was together with him yesterday, and when looking at her like this, Emilia is a very pretty girl.

Even if people of the school see her at a glance, he thinks that they won't probably notice that she's Emile.

– What's wrong, Hayato?

– No, umm... I don't know anything about clothes and the like, so I guess you are fine as you are now. This, the appearance you have, I think you look cute...

– Than-, thank you.... What you have told me makes me very happy.

Embarrassed, Emilia scratched her cheek.

– But you could perfectly buy those clothes when crossdressing, right? Didn't the shop assistant see your figure with her own eyes?

– Not necessarily? I asked for a present.

– Oh, I get it...

– Well then, shall we choose Hayato's clothes?

Speaking of Hayato, and after that, he put on clothes that turned him into a doll.

It's the result of Emilia bringing clothes to him so he could change in the locker room over and over again.

Although Hayato gave a bitter smile and sometimes Emilia gave a big laugh, in the end they went for simple clothes.

It's a *casual coordination*: a shirt in which only letters are written, over that goes a jacket and finally a belt on black trousers.

Hayato bought them and changed clothes.

– Yup, it definitely suits you. Hayato is cool.

When she saw Hayato who changed to the clothes he bought, Emilia had a very satisfying expression.

By the way, he decided to keep the gun, the <<N Tranquilizer>>, in the inner pocket of the jacket that he's wearing from the top.

That is because he felt that it was dangerous to put it in the bag together with the uniform.

– ...hmm, those...

At that moment, Hayato doubted his eyes due to the figures of two people he saw on the other side of the transparent glass behind Emilia.

(Why are they in this place!?)

Without a doubt they were Fritz and Latia, but they aren't wearing the uniform of the martial arts department, and were getting out of the red sports car at the parking lot.

– This is bad, let's hide!

– Huh?

– I'm telling you, come this way.

Hayato took Emilia's arms and pushed her into the dressing room where he just changed clothes now.

Hayato followed her and also entered in it, then closed the curtain.

– What's going on Hayato, what are you doing so suddenly!? Don't tell me that we are going to do something amazing in such a place...

Emilia doesn't grasp the state of emergency, her face turned red and is showing confusion.

– Let's be quiet for the time being. I'm going to take a look at them.

– At them...?

Hayato opened the curtain a little with his fingertips, and there are the figures of Fritz and Latia who just got out the red sports car.

– Impossible.... Why today, they both had to come here. How unfortunate.

Regarding Emilia's misunderstanding, Hayato knitted his brows spontaneously.

– It is possible that you have told them that we are here?

– No. Actually, Fritz told me about this store. When I told him that I wanted to do something once we docked in Zwei Island, he said if I wanted to go buy clothes, he'll give me the info of a famous shop, although it's quite far.

– ... still, aren't you being way too careless, having the appearance of a woman?

– This is the only opportunity to have a date with Hayato while dressing as a

woman. But what is with this perfect timing, this isn't something that happens so often.

– That might be but...

– More than that, there's something that has been worrying me for a while.

– What is it?

– It's pretty tight for two people to be here.

– It can't be helped, since there wasn't another place to hide immediately, so don't move too much.

– But if I don't move, I won't see the situation of those two.

– I obviously see them. When you move strangely, um, they touch me.

Emilia is now in her original figure of a woman. Since it was natural for her to not being wrapped in sarashi*, whenever she moves her body, the swellings of her chest touch his back, Hayato was worried about that from a while ago.

– They touch me...?

At last, when Emilia seemed to notice that it was her chest, her cheeks reddened.

– Hayato, did your heart go crazy?

– It can't be helped, because I'm a man.

– Ehehe, I'm a little happy.

– What thing?

– It's a secret.

– Huuh...

Sighing amazed, Hayato turned his eyes once again to the parking lot.

Both Fritz and Latia are approaching the entrance of this fashion building.

– Come to think of it, Fritz possesses a driving license? If I'm not mistaken, he has the same age than us. And what's the deal with that car, I wonder?

– The age to obtain a driving license is according to your country. In Yamato is

from 18 years old. Certainly, in Liberia seems to be lower than that, and the car is probably a rented one.

– Oh, I see...

It seems that he was thinking too much about how things were in his country. He had the conviction that he was grown accustomed a lot, but the culture gap is considerable.

– Ah, they came in the store.

The two entered on the first floor of the fashion building and went to the stairs turning towards the ladies' department of the second floor.

– There was something that I still wanted to buy, but it's better to leave the store now.

– I agree, let's go.

They left the fashion building, got on a bus and decided to move to the neighboring town now.

According to Emilia, if they go there, the chances of seeing Fritz and Latia will decrease.

– Besides, I think there's a shop where you can eat delicious lunch in the neighboring town. And the scenery of *Westland* can also be seen across the ocean, it's very beautiful.

Emilia talked with excitement but uneasiness was passing Hayato's mind.

– ... you didn't ask Fritz about that shop, right?

He decided to ask her for caution's sake.

If so, there's a possibility that Fritz will come to the store.

– I looked up the store on the *cybernet*, so it will be fine.

– That's a relief...

Being that the case, Hayato let Emilia lead the way to the store.

They finally reached it, it's a shop of François cuisine, which seems to be quite expensive from the gate design.

The exterior is fairly stylish, and if the person is Hayato, then unmistakably will hesitate to enter the shop.

But without worrying about it, Hayato followed Emilia who put her hand on the door of the shop and stepped into the shop while his heart was beating hard.

Naturally, even when sitting on the chair he couldn't calm down, it was natural since it was his first time entering a store like this.

He couldn't understand the menu well, so he decided to leave the order to Emilia.

– I don't know much about François cuisine though.

Despite saying that, Emilia called the lady of the floor staff and ordered the recommended lunch course of the day.

Even if he listens to the conversation, to Hayato it's an unintelligible language.

– Because the Zwei Islands are only islands, its fish-based cooking is famous. That's why their specialty are fish dishes. The people on the *net* also left written recommendations about it.

That seems to be a safe choice.

Soon, three kinds of <<assorted dishes>> *a la carte* local specialties of the Zwei Islands' <<appetizers>> *amuse-bouche* and a pumpkin cold soup were brought.

A la carte is a marinade of shrimps, terrine of japanese scallop, fried garlic butter with escargot and all sorts of seafood.

Each piece was placed in a long rectangular dish with small portions next to it.

– I know the fried garlic butter, but what are marinade and terrine?

It doesn't become clear well even if he sees them, so Hayato decided to ask Emilia.

– As you can see, marinades are those in which raw fish and vegetables are soaked in vinegar or lemon juice and speaking of terrine, it's like the kamaboko* in Yamato. Does Hayato know what is a kamaboko?

***TN: steamed seasoned fish paste. WAIT, how is that Emilia knows more about “yamatian” cuisine than Hayato himself?**

– Of course I do. They are certainly similar if you ask me.

Hayato pierced the terrine with a fork and put it into his mouth.

– Oh, it’s delicious.... But it has a strong flavor than the kamaboko....

– Right? Unlike kamaboko, terrine has minced meat and mashed liver in it as well.

And, while eating the appetizers, Hayato recalled what he was planning to ask yesterday at night and decided to begin to talk about it.

– Which reminds me, what we talked yesterday, about the video of us—

– I tried searching it after returning to my room, but it was deleted.

– Oh, that happened to me too. I also searched it, but I couldn’t find it.

– Perhaps the administrators of the *cyberspace* took it down. Such a thing happens every day.

– Then, we don’t need to worry anymore about it?

– Probably. At the moment there’s no one else than Kirishima Sakura who pointed you out, so I guess we are fine. Of course, we have to be careful to not let something like that happen in the future.

The floor staff came to pick up the empty appetizers and soup dishes, so Hayato and Emilia stopped the conversation.

Immediately following, the main dish of the fish dishes— a light steamed salmon with zucchini, eggplants and onions were carried.

Then both used a knife and a fork and put their hands on them.

– Yeah, as it was rumored, it’s indeed delicious. François cuisine is good. Although it’s close to our country, it’s very different from Britannia.

Hayato remembered old memories.

Certainly, as Emilia said, Britannia’s dishes weren’t that tasty.

Karen didn’t eat properly, and reached the point where her physical condition

deteriorated.

– I thought that I was being served good food, but once I came to Little Garden I understood. But still, it was fairly exquisite.

Emilia distorted her expression while taking out her tongue.

– As expected of an Ojousama of Britannia.

– Ojousama, huh...

The expression of Emilia got cloudy.

– What's the matter?

– No, I just remembered my home for a bit.

Ahaha, Emilia laughed to gloss it over.

– And why?

– It's fine, let's change the topic. Come to think of it, Yamato has a lot of delicious things. Sushi, tempura, negima, lightly deep-fried tofu and so on*!

*TN: negima: chicken and scallion skewer.

– Apart from the first two, you know things that only a *maniac* would know about...

– I studied the birthplace of Hayato. I know a lot of other things too, Mt. Fuji, Houryuuji, the Sky Tower of the Imperial Capital and more!

The eyes of Emilia that were emphasized holding a fork and a knife in both hands were shining brightly.

– I got it, you have a lot of knowledge. Now calm down a bit...

– Ehehe, in case there's a time when Little Garden comes near Yamato, will Hayato show me around? That's right, I'd like to see the shrines too! It's said that shrine maidens live there!

– That will be fine, I guess. I know places like that.

– Hooray!

And just like that, Hayato and Emilia ate up completely the main dish and only the dessert remained.

The thing that came to the top of the table『Pêche Melba—— white peach's compote with vanilla ice cream』

Hayato knows about the 『white peach』 and the 『vanilla ice cream』 of it, but unfortunately, he doesn't really understand what 『compote』 is like.

When he thought about asking Emilia about it, 「I'll be back in a minute」and left her seat.

– Did something happen?

– Why are you asking such a thing? Come on Hayato, you don't have delicacy.

Saying that amazed, Emilia started to walk.

Hayato finally understood after seeing the retreating figure. It seems like she's going to the toilet.

(Which reminds me, Emilia goes to the men's toilet at school...)

He saw Emilia entering the girls' toilet and noticed that.

He thought that it was natural since she was crossdressing, but maybe she has a lot of difficulties doing that.

– ...hmm what is it?

The PDA suddenly made a sound.

It's not the sound of a mail, but the one of a call request.

(This is, surely a...)

When looking at the screen, it was displayed as an *emergency call*.

(...no way, Savage appeared?)

He heard this sound before, when Emilia and Liddy were fighting in the courtyard.

It was the news that the Savage appeared in the Zwei Islands.

Besides, because he heard from Claire that the Savage may be lurking, it's natural to think so.

『Do you hear me, Kisaragi Hayato?』

Claire's voice was heard from the PDA without the need to press the call button.

– President, has something happened?

『To be frank, I am quite troubled』

– I knew it, the Savage appeared...

『That is not the case』

– Eh...?

『Kirishima Sakura has disappeared from the hotel』

It was a reply that he didn't expect, it was without a doubt a state of emergency.

『... though, there is a possibility that she just sneaked away. It seems that she has done that a couple of times so far, and naturally the GPS function of the PDA has been turned off desu. And it looks like a note was left behind...』

Her voice as exasperated, and mixed with sighs.

– Then that means that the possibility of kidnapping is low, correct?

『Yes, more or less, I have made ring the emergency alert, but it is as you say desu. I will also search for her, but would you please inform me if you got any information masuka? Depending on the situation, you wil also join the search masu. Or rather, I would like you to join the search for her right now』

– President, I can hear that your voice is angry...

『What are you saying, Kisaragi Hayato. What would be the reason for me to be angry just because you are eating alone with Emile Crossford at a Françoise restaurant in *Eastland* desu?』

–

Apparently, the location information seems to be leaked perfectly to the President.

『By the way, I have not eaten lunch yet masenwa. I have been pressed to deal with Kirishima Sakura desu』

– Umm, I’m sorry...

「If you want to apologize, then go out with me and have lunch together next time」

– Ah, yes. I don’t have a problem with that but...

『Is it true desuno?』

– Err, I guess so.

『We-, well, I am looking forward to it masuwa. Well then, if you have any information, please let us know masu』

The phone call ended.

He felt bad for the President, but honestly, Hayato was relieved.

The thing is, if the date ends here, there’s no mistake that Emilia’s mood will get worse.

However, he was able to be relieved for a brief space of time.

– I finally found you, Hayato.

– ...huh?

A voice suddenly appeared.

Immediately after that, she sat down on the chair in front of him, a girl wearing a hat and sunglasses.

No matter how you look at her, it’s suspicious.

Perhaps she planned to disguise herself, but the cute attire with a lot of exposure, the hat that covered her head, the barrettes made in the shape of cherry blossoms, and of course the aura being emitted from the whole body of the beautiful girl couldn’t be hidden, so he knew who she was.

– Hey, “Sakura has disappeared from the hotel”, and now, I got a call from the President...

– Ahaha, Souffle has already returned to the room. I sneaked away by moving behind the back of the bodyguards standing by in the surroundings of the hotel and in the gap of it I went out of there.

– I sneaked away you say, why did you do such a...

– Won't you answer my question first? Who was sitting in this seat? A man?
Or a woman?

– Err...

– Don't err me. Answer my question.

It seems she hadn't seen Emilia.

He wonders if she came to this shop after Emilia entered the toilet.

– Well, it's a classmate...

Hayato hesitated to say it, and answered while mumbling.

– Then that means is a she? This is suspicious...

– ... I'm going to call the President right now.

– Wait a minute!

– He-, hey!

Sakura snatched the PDA that Hayato took out of his pocket.

– This is why Hayato, I wanted to see you.

– You were searching for me... so, why did you know my whereabouts?

– Yesterday at the hotel, I gently stuck a hidden small transmitter on your uniform jacket.

– Why did you do such a thing....

– Because there's a place I want to go with Hayato.

– Where's that?

– It's a se-cret.

She put up an index finger in front of her mouth and said in a cute way.

– ...hey umm, I'm worried about Souffle-san, you even caused trouble to the President. Listen and return the PDA. I will inform them that I joined you.

– Nope. If you want me to return it, then follow me right now. It's truly a nice place. Besides, isn't Hayato's job to be my personal bodyguard?

– Hmm....

In other words, it's going to be nothing but throwing away the date with Emilia.

– What, you won't come? In the end a woman was sitting here? If you are a man, you should email her later.

– Fine, I'll do it.

As this situation can't be helped, Hayato left his seat.

Sakura is watching the video of the previous resistance.

There's a possibility that she will realize that the other Slayer fighting in that video is Emilia. It would be better to avoid these two girls to meet if possible. Even Emilia should think so.

Therefore, Hayato breathed with a sigh and continued speaking.

– Okay, I'll go, I don't care where but take me with you.

– Yay!

Hayato left the shop with Sakura and both got on the back seat of a taxi.

– Please return the PDA. To email her.

He will have to tell Emilia that he apologizes for leaving that place suddenly and that the reason was that he was found by Kirishima Sakura.

(Oh right, I left my uniform there and I didn't pay the charges...)

He thinks he truly did a bad thing to Emilia.

Next time, he will have to apologize properly.

– Here you go, but it's prohibited to write anything about me.

That said, she handed out the PDA.

– Even if you tell me such a thing, the reason is necessary. Even Sakura must call properly. If not, I'll call the President and I'll bring you back.

– ...fine, you win.

Sakura became sulky as she said so, and picked up her PDA and started

calling.

『Sakura! Where on earth are you!?!』

It's loud enough to be heard by Hayato who's next to her, but that was natural. Thinking the worst, Souffle should have been very worried.

– I'm in the southern part of *Eastland* now. Yup, I came together with Hayato, so don't worry.

Etcetera, and Sakura who had been answering Souffle, held out the PDA.

– Souffle wants to speak with you.

Hayato received the PDA and decided to answer the call.

– Hello, it's Kisaragi Hayato.

『Kisaragi-san, I am sorry for having you to keep company with the selfish Sakura... I am sorry but, could you please stick together with the selfish Sakura?』

– Yes, of course. That's part of my job.

『It really helps me if you say so.』

– Job you say, why would you.... That's boring.

Hayato handed over the PDA to Sakura who's pouting her lips.

– I'm handing over the phone in the end.

– Not that it matters though...

– Anyway, this is the PDA of Sakura. Take it.

Then, after a little conversation, Sakura ended the phone call.

– I was told that I must definitely come to the venue by the time the rehearsal meeting begins. I know that and yet...

Sakura inflated her cheeks.

– Umm when is that?

– Six o'clock.

– If that's the case then we still have plenty of time, but.... On that subject,

where is this taxi heading to?

Hayato remembered that he hadn't heard it yet.

– To my secret place.

– ...secret place?

– Yup, I will show Hayato my secret place.

When they were on the taxi for around 20 minutes, the buildings gradually were disappearing from the surroundings. The view that can be seen is the vast plain* itself. It wasn't destroyed by the Savage. Logically, it's that kind of place.

***TN: This kanji can mean A LOT of things. 荒野. Wasteland, wilderness, deserted land, prairie, vast plain, wilds, desert, wild land. Which one is the correct, author-san?**

When they noticed, the highway didn't have speed limit. There were barely other cars traveling, and Hayato, who was looking out the window, noticed particularly the sky gradually approaching.

As they advanced for a while through the mountain road where the road got worse without a pause, the altitude slowly increased.

– This is as far as we can go by car.

They both got out the taxi. Near them, they saw a big building and a parking lot. And in the signboard next to it was written『Zwei Great Canyon. 500 meters left until the viewing platform. Vehicles are prohibited from here』

This place is called the Zwei Great Canyon, it seems that this picturesque landscape made by large scale crustal deformation and erosion of river water, is similar to the great canyon in Liberia, 『Grand Canyon』which is its selling point.

That can be understood from the picture in the sign.

It's also noted that it takes near 10 minutes to walk from here to the viewing platform where it can be seen.

– Let's go, Hayato.

Following Sakura who started walking first, Hayato started to ascend a dusty

inclined reddish brown slope. It's quite a steep slope and at this time the temperature is still very high. Even for Hayato, who has trained his body is difficult, and of course, it's difficult for Sakura too.

Sweat suspended on their foreheads, their gait is slow.

Still, without making any complaints, Sakura headed straight to the viewing platform.

Her gaze seemed to be looking something important ahead.

– We arrived.

At the same time that Sakura said so, Hayato is so moved that he let leak some words.

– Uwaa, it's amazing...

The sight that blew off the fatigue for walking till here, was the landscape spread from the viewing platform.

The unevenness ground that turned reddish-brown is beautiful and proud of its appearance, as if a high-profile sculptor from the Renaissance era shaved its fully open aesthetic sense.

And the sun, that looked bigger, was illuminating the color of the reddish-brown ground even more.

– This viewing platform in particular is quite a place for enthusiasts. That's why there aren't many people. And the walking distance is relatively long.

Certainly, there are few people on this viewing platform. A couple is around 100 meters away— and again a bit more ahead of them they can see another couple, but it's quiet enough to hear the sound of the wind blowing through the canyons—

In such a situation, they kept staring at the scene like if it was a beautiful treasure in front of them for a few minutes.

– This is Sakura's precious place.... As you said yesterday, was this the place you wanted to go?

– ... yup.

Nodding, Sakura continued.

– Actually, this is the place of my precious memories because in the past, at the time when my mom was alive, she brought me here.

– Then it's fine to bring someone like me to this place?

Hayato asked without thinking.

– Of course. In fact, I had the intention to come alone on the day after the previous *live*. But, I couldn't come due to the raid of the Savage...

– Oh, that was the reason...

– I was very nervous at that time. *What do we do if this beautiful scenery is destroyed by the Savage?* But it was Hayato who protected it. So, Hayato can come here. No, I wanted Hayato to see it. This is one of my precious treasures that you protected.

– When you say that, it feels like I did something amazing.

– What are you talking about? Hayato really did an amazing thing.

Saying that, Sakura turned her eyes to the canyon again, and started to sing a song.

(Surely, that...)

That song, Hayato has heard it somewhere.

Because her little sister Karen sang often that song.

– hmm, Sakura, that song...

As Sakura finished singing, Hayato asked.

– This song? My mom was a pianist, and she made this song for me only. It's a good song, right? In the past, my mom used to sing it like this—

– I, see...

– Hayato... what's wrong?

That song my little sister Karen... she sings it perfectly.

– No, that can't be...

Sakura hold her mouth with both hands.

Song and little sister.

Like Hayato, it seems that those two keywords were linked in her head.

– By any chance, was Hayato in Gudenburg at the time of the *Second Attack*?

Hayato nodded.

– That means that Sakura was also there?

– Yes, I lost my mom then, then I was temporarily put in a protective institution. I met by chance a brother and his little sister. The name of the little sister was Karen—

– Karen is the name of my little sister.

– No way, to think that the boy at that time was Hayato... I can't believe it.

– Even I can't believe it. But, it seems like there's no mistake.

At any rate, the song was an indication of it.

– Why did Hayato called me out at that time?

– Because Karen, who lost our mother in front of her, was feeling depressed. And as that just happened when we were traveling, we didn't have any acquaintances.... Then, there was a girl of the same age as Karen, and since she was alone, I called her out. "I wonder if she can become a friend of Karen.

– Fufu, that's how it happened.

– Come to think of it, you remember the name of Karen, but you didn't remember my name. Your impression of me was that weak?

– You are wrong. At that time, Hayato didn't tell me his name.

– Huh? I didn't say it? I always regretted that I should have asked at that time. Because that person is the one who changed my destiny.

– Changed your destiny...?

– At that time, Hayato liked my song and I was praised by him. So, then I aimed to become a singer.

– ... is that true?

– Yup. That’s why, I’m grateful to Hayato. Thanks to him liking my songs, I met Soufflet. And, in this way, I was able to become a singer. At that time, a lot of things happened.

Sakura muttered and turned her eyes to the canyon again.

– After all, even Hayato knows about the <<Mechanical Diva>> *Singaloid**.

***TN: シンガロイド “Shingaroido” Singerloid sounds even more weird so, I’m gonna leave it like that.**

– Yeah, even I know her.

The Diva was created.

Although they were making fun of it, it’s a singing character made by machine voice that boasts tremendous popularity among young people. Initially a sampling voice of a person was used, but it’s said that even the source of its voice is now being made with machines.

– But, in reality *Singaloid* can’t heal people’s hearts. Only a human voice can sing along with people’s feelings. That’s why the songs of Kirishima Sakura are wonderful. Some of the things said when evaluating my songs is that they are transmitted deep inside the people’s heart. But, that’s not the truth, it’s just a deception—

– A deception you say, what do you...

– The truth is that even I was created.

With those words, Hayato unexpectedly caught his breath.

Then Sakura talked about after she parted with Hayato and Karen.

After she became old enough to understand what’s going on around herself, she was taken in charge of her father and started living in Rasiya Federation, the birthplace of her father.

Rasiya is a huge country to the northwest of Yamato. It’s a cold region where permafrost is spreading all over the places, and it never melts to below ground all year round.

And while living there, she developed an illness.

It's the same illness that Karen has, where all the muscles won't move properly due to the influence of an unknown virus.

– At first, I was hospitalized in the hospital of the village where I lived. There I met Souffle, a medical intern who had just graduated from the university. She, she was very kind to me.

Souffle, now the president and manager of the management company of Kirishima Sakura, has been studying genetic engineering since her student days, and also was a researcher who repeatedly researched every day to save people from diseases caused by unknown viruses.

– Even if she tried everything, my condition didn't improve and far from that, the progress of the disease accelerated, and in a year approximately my voice didn't come out.

In other words, that meant that she couldn't even sing her favorite song.

– Under the pretext to take a medical treatment in a better place, my father did a hospital transfer to a laboratory. No, he actually sold me off as a test subject.

Sakura at that time didn't understand, but his father's financial standing wasn't good. After divorcing from her mother, he drowned in alcohol and didn't work properly either. Of course, it was impossible to pay the treatment expenses of Sakura, and eventually he sold her off.

– The destination was a laboratory operated by Warslan. There were many children who have been transferred with the same symptoms. And so we have a fluorescent color liquid— we were inoculated with a vaccine made and improved with the body fluids of the Savage.

The diseases affecting Sakura happened because the human body was incompatible with the unknown virus infecting the air.

However, the Savage adapted while being affected by the virus, and most of those patients who ingested its body fluids are dead, but some of them have strong force.

In other words, Vitaly Tynyanov, the director of the laboratory, said that if you administrate Savage's body fluids in humans, then the unknown virus antibody

could be——a vaccine.

– Then I had a high fever for a few days and wandered between life and death. The memories before and after that are vague, I can't remember them.

But, I survived——after that, my voice came out again and I could move. I was saved by Vitaly.

Then Sakura, together with the inoculation, she was given several experiments with her recovered companions. They were said that that was a question of whether the Hundred reacts or not. However, all 5 of them at that place didn't react. Even when touching the Hundred, nothing happened.

– As a result, an inoculation for a second time was done.

– Why, such a thing...

If they healed, then they shouldn't need to inject the vaccine on them anymore.

– Because the purpose of Vitaly wasn't to cure the disease. Vitaly's true purpose was to make a normal human into a Slayer in a safe form by the absorption of improved body fluids of the Savage.

– Then, she was trying to do of Sakura and the others a Variant?

– Why does Hayato know about the Variant?

Leaning forward, Sakura questioned him.

– Umm...

I did it again, Hayato thought.

He was told by Emilia that it's no good to talk about it.

That's why Hayato is in trouble.

– I'm sorry but, I can't say a word to anyone about that matter. That's why I'm sorry, but pretend that you didn't hear that now.

– No way! Please, tell me your story. Hayato was also inoculated with the vaccine?

– Err, hmm...

– Because even I talked about my secret, don't you agree? We won't tell anyone what we heard here. Because that will be a secret only for the two of us... so, please. I'd like to know more about Hayato.

At the same time she finished saying that, Sakura stared directly at Hayato. From her eyes, her honest seriousness and strong will are felt.

– ... okay.

She also spoke frankly about her secret.

Then he will respond to that sincerity.

Hayato, while skillfully dodging Emile Crossford, that is, Emilia Hermit, he talked about what happened to himself*.

***TN: by dodging her it means not talking about her.**

– In other words, Hayato accidentally turned into a Variant.

– Pretty much.

– But, I see. Hayato is also a Variant... fufu.

– You are somewhat happy.

– A long time ago, the person who I met by coincidence and changed my life is a Variant, and I'm also a Variant... I thought that the two of us meeting again was really predestinated and now that we are here like this makes me happy.

– What's with that...

– Ehehe, this conversation.

– So, what's the continuation of the story? And then, what happened?

When Hayato prompted her, the expression of Sakura became gloomy.

Her voice also became dark.

– From here on, it's truly the worst story. The second hardest thing that happened in my life.

Of course, as he can guess, was the loss of her mother.

As an introduction, Sakura told him what happened after receiving the second inoculation.

– As a result of being inoculated a second time, some of us got to be able to deploy a Hundred. However, approximately the same percentage of people had side effects. It was still fine if it was only high fever. And among them, some persons acted violently without warning. It's the same phenomenon that happened to people who have absorbed the body fluids of the Savage.

Sakura had nightmares for a few days, but after that she hardly had one.

It might be the effect that the Hundred couldn't be deployed.

– But Latuni Iyaninov, a friend I made in the laboratory, had a very strong side effect instead of becoming able to deploy the Hundred. It was common for her to suddenly rage and scratch off her chest in pain.

Latuni told Sakura, while keeping the self somehow during the spasms.

—When you sing, it comforts us. So, keep singing.

– I sang. The song that my mother created for me. Then, Latuni became stable. And just like her, there were a lot of children that calmed down as I sang.

However, the behavior of the children with strong side effects has become ferocious day after day.

Rather than fighting, there was something that attacked them all.

– Every time I sang the song, I tried to calm them down. But, eventually it didn't work anymore. Some of them died while vomiting blood over and over again, or while injuring another person. My friend, the only one I had, also died. Even Latuni...

—Sing, Sakura.

– She said so while she was suffering, but I couldn't sing anymore. I could only see her going, while crying. I didn't want to sing anymore. There was only despair existing within me. At that time, Souffle and Charlotte-san came to the laboratory. It was like a spider's thread that came down to hell from heaven.

Souffle thought that it was strange that Sakura was suddenly transferred without being told the place, so Souffle investigated the whereabouts and found the laboratory of the Dr. Vitaly Tynyanov who was affiliated with the

military department of Warslan Company.

It was easy to rumor that Vitaly was doing illegal medical treatment so far, and Souffle, who's a researcher, understood immediately that her methods and true purpose were the creation of <<Artificial Variant>>.

After the Savage raid, the Hundred were put into practical use, having Slayers and the manufacturing technology of the Hundred, the power of the organizations that controlled those increased all at once, and the *power balance* that ruled this world was fragile and crumbled.

As a result, what has happened was the polarization of 「The ones who have」 and 「The ones who have-not」.

In order to break through such a situation, even the people who took into consideration that 「The ones who have-not」 will become 「The ones who have」 has reached the point where they were born.

Warslan Company, to which Vitaly belongs, is a company that has made further progress with 「The ones who have」. That's why Vitaly thought that it was important to get ahead the technology to increase the 「The ones who have」 in order to keep standing on 「The ones who have-not」.

「Completion of the specific medicine of incurable illness」 and 「Technology of Artificial Variant」.

With these two in hand, she would improve her position as a researcher within the company in addition to make Warslan's position even more solid——that were the objectives of Vitaly.

At any rate Vitaly was snatched away the position of the chief researcher of Warslan headquarters by a young genius named Charlotte Dimandius, so immediately after that she moved to the research establishment of Rasiya, her birthplace.

Then, based on Warslan Company's creation technique of Hundred, the research of Slayers and the foundation the results of scientific investigations of the virus in possession of the Savage, she started to improve the body fluids of the Savage.

Nonetheless, regarding Souffle, she never thought that she would succeed at

that point. It's dangerous to be ingested by people, even if it's a refined Savage's body fluid. Although surely there's a possibility of making a wonder drug for this incurable illness, human experiments at this stage aren't permitted for not being a humane solution.

It's just a bad gambling.

So, after studying together in their school days, she got a job at Warslan and visited Charlotte Dimandius, who was a little over than a year in position of chief researcher, the one Vitaly assumed, and requested earnestly that she wanted to investigate what was being done at the laboratory of Vitaly.

And so the existence of many victims was revealed and Warslan Company condemned Vitaly Tynyanov for all of the evil investigations that she did without permission in order to, naturally, rise her position.

Vitaly was arrested and it had been decided that she would be imprisoned by the Rasiya Federal Government.

— Then I received treatment by the side of Charlotte together with the children who barely survived and received a suitable examination of the Hundred again. At that time, the Hundred was able to react. But I couldn't deploy the armament.

Then Charlotte told Sakura.

— It's probably because it rejected the ability you got. What would you like to do with that power?

— Respect to that question, I was thinking about it. Of course, because this is the strength that I gained at great pains, I want to save someone by using it. But I don't want to fight. I don't like that. I had enough of that.

Maybe is the *trauma* and the effects of what happened in the laboratory.

The words of Latuni came to her mind there.

——Sing, Sakura.

— That's why I, I tried to use my power for singing. Charlotte and of course Souffle cooperated until I quit my job.

As a result, Sakura says that she has built her position as a singer using the

ability of the Hundred.

– Mom, Hayato, Souffle, Latuni and Charlotte-san. And many others. Because everyone helped me when I was suffering, I was given wonderful words that saved me. So to return the favor, I'll continue singing. Even if the body fluids of the Savage are mixed in my body. Even though I'm not a human being. Even though the reason why everybody likes my songs is because I'm a Variant.

– Err, what do you...

– There's something I discovered from the investigation of Charlotte. As an artificial Variant, my songs are a large owner of the virus, that work through the songs to the virus that most of the human beings are infected with at present.

Although it's only a possibility, it's possible that the songs of Kirishima Sakura received by many people is the influence of that virus.

– It's a bit sad, and it's also a frustrating thing, but I'm fine with it. Even if it's for an instant, everyone forgets about their difficulties and enjoys my songs.

– I don't think so.

– Eh...

– I think the songs of Sakura are normal. I thought so even when I met Sakura before she was an artificial Variant.

– Really?

– Surely, the virus or another thing is the reason that the songs of Sakura are received, but I think that there's also the charm of Sakura's own songs in them.

– Hayato is kind.... I've come to like Hayato even more. If it's now, I think I don't mind continuing the thing of that time.

– The thing of that time...?

– That's of course— —

And there *BEEP BEEP BEEP*... the PDA of Sakura began to ring with an electronic sound.

– Ugh, it's from Souffle...

While pouting her lips, Sakura accepted the call request.

– Hello, what is it?

『It's near one hour before the scheduled time. Are you prepared to come here?』

– I'm on it, so don't disturb me. Even though we were on a good thing now!

Saying that, she hung up and Sakura turned her eyes to Hayato again.

– Anyway, thank you Hayato. I'll do my best at the concert of the day after tomorrow. Because my songs will blow away the pain and the anguish of everyone on this island.

– Hey, we are going to attack after the *live*, right? Then why the hell did we have to come here today?

It was at the time when the sun was trying to conceal its face on the ridgeline and the sky was dyed in a madder red color.

It's a girl with somewhat short dark brown pigtails who was wearing a jet black Variable Suit who said that, pouting her lips as if she was bored.

– Coz' there's a chance that the Savage will be sorting out around this area, okay?

That's what a boy who wore the same suit and had the same dark brown hair color*.

***TN: There's a verb used for his hair, but sadly I couldn't figure out a translation for it since it's related to hairstyles and even in spanish I don't know them xD. But the intention was that his hair was like you saw in the anime) Or check illustrations of this volume. I'm sorry for that.**

Furthermore, there's a girl whose height is higher than the pigtail girl, has bigger breasts and has a black eyepatch.

– Do you know the proverb “If you run after two hares you will catch neither”? This is troublesome, I want to play in town. As soon as work is done,

I'll leave this island in no time.

– But up to now, you've played a lot, or not?

The boy said, exasperated, but the girl did a rebuttal.

– But, that's not enough. I want to play more and more. I'll be getting back everything up to now.

– A little more, and I'll be able to like it as well. First, let's finish the work. For the sake of obtaining our freedom.

– ... yeah. Nakri also understands that, right?

Speaking in a small voice, the tallest girl said that to another person to persuade her.

– I knew Nesat would say so. Then, where are the Slayers? We won't have difficulties if we know it. In any case, let's search around for a bit more. They might suddenly appear from anywhere.

The three of them dressed in jet black *jackets* jumped off the hill and began exploring the wilderness while searching signs of the Savage that feel weakly.

Chapter 4: Regenerator *The Voice of Sakura*

Poachers

Hayato and Sakura, who returned to the cabin in the place where they got off from the taxi from the viewing platform were at a loss.

Even though there was a taxi rank, there wasn't a single taxi waiting there.

– If that was the case, then that taxi should have been waiting for us.

That taxi is the one they were using until now.

Sakura mutters like it's not a big deal for her the amount of money for being waiting for them.

When she looked at the watch, her manager Souffle said she must come back before 18' o clock—she has one hour left.

Even after waiting for 5 minutes, the taxis didn't come, not even a single car passed by.

The sky is already dark. She's troubling about what to do.

– Should I look for a taxi company on the *cybernet* or call Souffle and get a car arranged?

When Sakura takes out the PDA, a bus comes and stops nearby.

As they approached the bus stop and looked at the route map, they found that it stops near the *live* venue.

It requires 30 minutes to get there.

Even if they call a taxi, it will take quite a while to get to such a remote place.

And if she asks Souffle, that won't change the fact that Hayato will have to ask the President no matter what.

On the other hand, the bus leaves in about 5 minutes.

Therefore, Hayato and Sakura decided to board it. They thought that this method was more reliable.

They sit on a two-seat chair side by side.

The passengers who were only two at the beginning also increased slightly at the time of departure.

But none of them noticed that Kirishima Sakura is there, because she's disguising herself by wearing sunglasses and a thick hat.

Whether it's to avoid chaos the moment her identity is exposed, he wasn't receiving a conversation from Sakura.

– Hmm...?

It was around the time when the bus started moving.

There was a weight on Hayato's shoulder.

Sakura is leaning on it.

The sweet aroma unique of the girls came floating, the fragrance of her hair tickles his nose.

– Hey, don't get so close.

Even when saying so, there's no reaction.

Hayato noticed that Sakura was breathing particularly when a person is sleeping.

– Nn...

While sleeping, Sakura approaches her head even more.

(This is embarrassing, what do I do...?)

There's a rehearsal, that means she has to sing after this.

She's going to use her Hundred too.

Her body got tired from going and returning through the slope that took more than enough, so now, there's no mistaking it that it's better to take a rest.

But, to be honest, this situation is pretty exciting.

It's mentally too bad as they seem like a pair of lovers.

But, concluding that it would be better to leave it as it is, Hayato closed his

eyes.

Trying as much as possible to not care about Sakura, aiming to... shake off wicked thoughts.

Before he became aware of it, the bus was approaching precisely in the middle of the live concert and the big canyon.

– Uwaa!?

Suddenly, a violent explosion sounded, the bus shook heavily up and down.

Hayato's butt floats around 10 centimeters, screams are escaping from the surroundings.

Sakura, who was sleeping next to Hayato, as a matter of course she also awoke, screaming 「Kyaa!?」 and asked a question.

– What on earth happened?

– I don't know, but—

He felt something unpleasant.

In the middle of that, the bus stopped, and the shaking ceased— immediately after, an explosion sounds again.

The air shakes violently, the bus shakes with *rattle rattle*.

(As I thought, it's a Savage, huh?)

Hayato is hanging out from the window of the bus and tries to check the situation of the surroundings.

Dark wilderness it's visible to his eyes.

He saw a dim light there.

Fluorescent colors that move together.

There's no doubt, it's a Savage.

Looking from the bus, it's diagonally ahead to the right.

Its size was around the same as the normal type that fought before.

With the light which started to gather at the head that was just opened, its

full-length portrait is exposed.

Of course Hayato knew that it was the signal of a bombardment.

– Everyone, get down!

Hayato puts his body back in the bus and shouts to the passengers.

At the same time, a violent explosion occurred, and the bus rolled over.

Echoing in the interior of the bus are numerous screams resounding, and the sounds of glasses breaking.

– ... are you okay?

Cough, Cough, although he coughed violently due to the cloud of dust that arose, Hayato asked Sakura.

– Yeah, I'm okay but, the bus is...

Looking ahead of her line of sight, there's a big hole in a part of the bus when it rolled over.

That part was probably melted by the heat of the beam of the Savage.

They were very lucky that they were touched lightly this much, because if that was a direct hit, then the people in the bus, including themselves, might not have been saved.

They were lucky to barely escape from death.

– Hayato, what are we going to do?

– ... first of all, we will be contacted.

When a Savage appears in the vicinity, all members of *Selections* in a battle-ready state are obliged to enter a standby state even if they are in the middle of their vacation.

In that case, an emergency alarm should sound from their PDAs.

But still, his PDA isn't sounding.

That means that Little Garden doesn't seem to grasp information on the appearance of the Savage.

And that also means that this Savage didn't come from space.

Because Hayato was taught that air traffic control is unlikely to miss.

(In other words, this is a surviving Savage...)

Hayato took out the PDA from his pocket and decided to contact the Student Council room.

However, the phone is in a transfer call state.

Now, the members of the Student Council aren't in that room.

Maybe they are in the usual holiday house.

『Kisaragi Hayato, why are you calling desuno?』

Finally, he was connected to the president.

The transfer destination seems to be her PDA.

— A Savage suddenly appeared in the wilderness, the bus that we were riding rolled over— —

『What did you say? Report it calmly, Kisaragi Hayato. Where is the place, and who is with you desu!?!』

— South area... of East Island.

Calming down this time properly as Claire told him, Hayato replied.

— I was attacked by a Savage on the way back from the Zwei great canyon to the *live* venue by bus. The fellow travelers are the escort target person Kirishima Sakura, the bus driver— —and around ten bus passengers.

『The information that you found the escort target person has been included from Souffle Clearrail, so that means that... Chris, check the exact coordinates of Kisaragi Hayato right now』

Following Chris's reply from the PDA, and then a few footsteps— —the voice of Erika is heard from the other side of the PDA.

『Claire-sama, it seems that the Savage have appeared in the southeast part of the Zwei Islands. Right now, emergency calls are— —』

『Erika, please wait. We have already recognized the matter of the Savage masu. Kisaragi Hayato is already in contact with the Savage and the escort

target person now desu』

『Wha...』

『What did you say!?!』

The surprised voices of Liddy and Erika reached the ears of Hayato.

The footsteps earlier were those two people. Following them, Chris informs.

『The location of Hayato-sama is now identified. As Hayato-sama said moments ago, they are in the southern part of the east island of the Zwei Islands——that is, 15 kilometers southeast away from the venue where the *live* will be held the day after tomorrow』

『Kisaragi Hayato, first be sure to evacuate the escort target person Kirishima Sakura, and the civilians to a safe place. Meanwhile, we will contact the Slayers nearby and send a relief request masuwa. Until they come, please gain time try to reduce the damage as much as possible. Of course, armament deployment is permitted masu』

– ... Roger. Will you be calling the Slayers from the venue?

『I can't do that masenwa. Depending on the situation, there is the possibility that the *Variable Stone* will be pillaged again arimasu』

It was robbed at the time of the previous Savage raid, so they guessed that there is a possibility that it will happen again this time.

『Kisaragi Hayato. I will be praying for the safety of you, the escort target person——and everyone else masuwa. No, if its you, you will surely cut your way through desu. No, you are going to cut your way through, OK desuwane? Then, I will hang up for a moment masuwayo』

– Roger.

When Hayato did a solid reply, Claire disconnected the call.

If it comes to this, then he has no choice but to decide himself.

(First of all, evacuate everyone, right...?)

Hayato ruminates the instructions from Claire in his head, and tells the driver and the ten passengers in the bus.

– Everyone, please go and hide on the other side of that cliff!

There was a cliff about 2 meters high at the point indicated by his line of sight.

If they go down there and hide as if sticking to the cliff, they must be safe even if the Savage bombarded.

Even so, no one tried to move.

—Is it really okay with that?

—Isn't it safe to hide in the shade of the bus?

He can hear such voices appearing out of nowhere.

If they don't move properly, they probably think that they will be targeted by the Savage.

Because of that reaction, Hayato was taken aback.

Now, he noticed that he wasn't wearing the uniform of Little Garden.

It seems that it can't be helped since they are thinking that this is nothing else but a prank of a child.

The panicking Hayato also has a student proof, and when he tries to take out the PDA, the voice of Sakura sounded.

– Hayato, that!

The head of the Savage, indicated by her fingertips, just opened and light began to gather on it.

Judging from that direction, there's a high possibility that bombardment will hit this place.

(Kuh... what do I do?)

From the amassing view, it seems that the bombardment isn't going to be in a straight line, but it will be released like a laser for a few seconds over a wide range instead.

If so, even if he deployed his armament quickly and put up an E *barrier*, he may not be able to protect everyone here.

– ... however, there's no time to escape.

(At any rate, I'll have to take the chance and do it...)

To begin with, if he doesn't deploy the Hundred, then it's no use.

It was then that Hayato laid his hands on the red-brown ore on his chest.

– Leave this to me.

Sakura took a step towards the Savage, saying that full of confidence.

– Leave this to me you say? Sakura— you don't have the ability to fight, right?

– No, I don't. But my ability is the space control type— if it's something like the bombardment of a Savage, then I can drown out it with a *barrier*, a created defense barrier.

She grasped tightly the Hundred that took out from her chest and shouted with her right hand pushed up her head.

– 《Deploying Barrier》*HUNDRED ON!*

Immediately afterwards, four emerald green wings appear on her back.

Subsequently, a gigantic magic square, covering the entire bus, was deployed on the ground and shone in emerald green.

– This is...

– An N *barrier*— a wide area defense barrier by neutral barrier. With this one, you should be able to protect the bus.

– How can you do such a thing....?

– Charlotte taught me a long time ago. In case something happened. However, when I use it, fears appear...

Saying that, the Savage fired the bombardment as Sakura put out her tongue, feeling embarrassed.

If it comes to this, he has no choice but to trust her.

And, as Hayato imagined, the bombardment of the Savage is similar to a drawing folding fan with the head as its origin.

The front of his eyes turns white, the earth shakes like an earthquake and a

cloud of dust rolls up furiously.

However, Hayato and the others weren't struck with the beam on their bodies, nor did they suffer damage in their eyes with the cloud of dust.

Sakura's wide-area defense barrier played a brilliant role as a *barrier*.

Shouts of joy are raised from the passengers.

Sakura, who undo the barrier and was taking a breath with a *Fuu*, throw away the hat, and removed the sunglasses, then turned around to the passengers.

– ... Kirishima, Sakura?

One of the male passengers raised his voice.

– She's really Kirishima Sakura.

The woman who stood next to him also raised her voice.

– Everyone, don't listen to my words, listen to his words properly.

Saying so to the noisy passengers, Sakura pointed out Hayato with her index finger of her right hand.

– He's one of the Slayers who saved us——and Zwei Islands in the event of the previous Savage raid. There's no mistake in what he says. So, as he indicated before, please run away below that cliff!

Hayato muttered unintentionally, looking at the passengers running towards below the cliff in response to the words of Sakura.

– As one would expect, of someone who's a popular idol...

The effectiveness of those words is outstanding.

– You saved me, thank you.

– This much is nothing. More than that, Hayato, deploy your Hundred quickly. Even though I can defend, I don't have the ability to attack, you know.

– Yes, you are right.

Depending on the situation, there's a possibility that the bombardment of the Savage will reach the town that is faintly seen in the distance or the *live* venue.

And, to be honest, they weren't in a situation where they could wait for

reinforcements, and the president also said that they should avoid making damage as much as possible... but, there was one concern.

– What is it Hayato, deploy it quickly.

Sakura hurries Hayato, who's holding the Hundred taken from his chest in his right hand.

– Actually, I have never deployed the Hundred without my Variable Suit. Even Sakura seems to be able to do normally, seeing the wide area defense barrier that you spread some time ago.

– Wait a moment, I've been using the Hundred for years, but everyone has experiences like this only once or twice, you know.

– It has only been a little over a month since I got the Hundred.

– No way, so the fight like before...?

It was Sakura who had an unbelievable expression on her face, but she quickly consented, then laughing with a *Fu",

– As expected of a Variant.

– Well, that may be the case...

– If it's Hayato, then you'll surely should be able to manage it somehow. Whether you are wearing the jacket or not, but when deploying it, it's not related at all.

– I see, then I'll give it a try.

Hayato grasped tightly the Hundred in his right hand.

– Hundred On.

A red light begins to overflow from the skin of the fingers, and eventually creates a one large black sword—*Hien*, in his right hand.

However, there's no armor attaching to his arm as usual, And also, in case of Hayato's Chevalier type, it's a basic attack type.

Without wearing a Variable Suit, the power of the E *barrier* should also be weaker than usual.

(If it becomes, then I can't just be running from place to place, I have no choice but to hit it)

It would be best if he could defeat it before reinforcements came.

While Hayato injects energy into *Hien* while staring at the core which shines in the fluorescent *shelter*, the engraved pattern emits a glow with a red light on the blade.

(Then, I just have to destroy it with this...)

Hayato glared at the core of the Savage, but before that, there was something he had to tell Sakura.

– Sakura, run away. You can hide behind that cliff.

– I don't think so.

Replying instantly, Sakura continues.

– I'm going to stay by the side of Hayato. I'm also a person who can use the same Hundred. Besides, you know that I can defend myself properly, Hayato.

– But, if Sakura got hurt and couldn't do the *live*, then what are you going to do? The fans, even everyone on this island will be sad, you know.

– Well...

– If you understand that, then escape.

But, Hayato. It's impossible now. The Savage is about to fire a bombardment.

As Sakura said, the Savage that was only moving its antennas to the left and right until moments ago, was beginning to gather light again on its head.

Moreover, not only Hayato and the others are included in the range, as it seems that they are being targeted.

(... what do I do?)

Frankly, he was in a pinch, but it was also a chance.

The Savage can't move right after a bombardment, in the same way as Fritz's bombardment in the sham battle last week.

So, there's a possibility that he can destroy the core of the Savage with one

hit if he stabs it in that gap.

– Hayato, I'll stop that one again, so...

– Understood. I'll entrust the defense to you. I'll try attacking the core, aiming at the gap that is made after the bombardment.

– Ah, that's right. If you want to make a chance, then I have a plan. I can create a number of illusions around me in the wide area barrier that I made.

Saying that, Sakura made a stuffed bear near the side of her right cheek.

– How about making lots of this and use them as a decoy? By the way, I can make something with the shape of Hayato.

With a pop, she creates an illusion that looks like Hayato.

– Uwa, it's kind of disgusting... please make it disappear.

Saying so, Sakura immediately vanished it.

– I don't know if there'll be any effect, but we surely have to give it a try.

– If so, let's take our chances.

– Yeah, it looks like it's almost time.

– Yup, the strategy begins!

Nodding, Sakura pushed out her right hand that grasped the Hundred towards the direction of the Savage.

– 《Deploying Barrier》*HUNDRED ON!*

The Hundred shines and feathers appear again on her back.

However, what she deployed before her eyes is different from the previous defense barrier. It may be because the bombardment of the Savage is pinpointing them.

The bombardment of the Savage collides with the 《magic square》*barrier* in front of them, scattering to all sides, then disappears.

Together with the hat of Sakura that flies high due to the welled-up wind, Hayato started running

He's not wearing his jacket now, so he can't accelerate nor do a high jump.

But——

– Now here I go! 《Deploying Wide Area Barrier》*HUNDRED ON!*

He felt the surrounding air changed with the voice of Sakura reaching his ears.

He guesses that she deployed a wide area barrier

– And then——create decoys!

Following those words, *POP, POP*, a lot of stuffed frogs and stuffed bears appear around the Savage.

(Thanks to Sakura, I was saved...)

He saw that the Savage, whose rigid state after the bombardment has finished, began to move and started attacking towards the decoys with its antennas and arms. If hadn't been for them, there's no doubt he would be targeted.

(The rest is up to me!)

Hayato reached near the Savage and struck *Hien* loaded with *energy* against the ground.

The body of Hayato rises high in the sky.

Using the reaction of the *energy* to jump high——that was the strategy of Hayato, it was magnificent, and a success.

If this keeps like this, he can aim for the core of the Savage.

– This will decide it!

Hayato struck *Hien* that was charged with *energy* towards the core.

– ... kuh!!

The reaction that fell into his hands is huge.

But without losing it, Hayato puts more strength on his arms.

(A bit more, a bit more...!)

Hien destroyed the *shelter* and the tip of the blade touched the core. Hayato injects *energy* as much as possible and tries to shake off his arm.

— Haaaaaaaaaaa— — — — !

The core broke into pieces with the screaming, fluorescent color liquid flied off in all directions.

— Hooray!

Sakura gave a cheerful voice, looking at the appearance of the Savage that collapsed towards the ground with a muffled voice.

Then, rushed to Hayato who breathes heavily at the side of the Savage that became a corpse, and clung tightly.

— As expected of Hayato, my future Husband!

— Wait what!? Also, if they see us like this, they'll get a weird misunderstanding! I'm telling you, get away!

— I don't care if they misunderstand! Hayato was really cool. I watched you so many times on the *cybernet*. I really fell in love with you again!

Immediately after Sakura said that.

BOOM! They felt that the sound of a bombardment sounded, and that exploded on the nearby ground, raising a cloud of dust.

— — — — — !?

A Savage was in the place where they looked back.

Its size isn't large like the one of a Trenta, but its body is larger than the one of before.

— Now I get it, these are the Savage who have gone missing, and this is the other one...

Hayato's cheeks became stiff.

The Savage has already begun gathering light on its head.

— I'll stop it!

In a hurry, Sakura tried to spread a defense membrane— — a wide area barrier, but the head of the Savage wasn't aiming at Hayato and Sakura for some reason.

It seems to be looking somewhere far.

— Don't tell me— —

There's only one thing that can be seen beyond its line of sight.

The *live* venue of Sakura.

— No way...

The eyes of Sakura became cloudy in hopelessness.

But, in this situation, she can't do anymore.

The bombardment of the Savage was almost in a horizontal direction.

A few seconds later, following the explosion that reaches the ears, sparks dye the night sky red, and black smoke starts to soar.

— That can't be...

Sakura collapses from the knees, her voice and body tremble.

Still, she cannot afford to be watching the situation motionlessly like this, she can't be dumbfounded.

Speaking of Savage's current state, it's only moving its antennas, but there's a possibility that it will open its head and bombard again.

If that happens, the damage will only spread further.

(What do I do...?)

At that time, the PDA sounded again.

It's an emergency call from the president.

『Kisaragi Hayato, do you hear me masuka? What on earth is the situation there desu? There's an incoming information of a bombardment at the *live* venue masuwayo!』

The shout of the president is heard from the PDA.

— Actually, I defeated one, but then another Savage was appearing, so the bombardment is— —

『What did you say!?!』

– Is the *live* venue okay!?

『Although it seems that there was damage in some dressing rooms and the like according to the information just now, the good news is that the stage is safe and it looks like there are people with only minor injuries desuwa』

– I'm glad...

Sakura mutters as if she was relieved.

『Now, the report desu. Now we are sending 5 Slayers from Little Garden as reinforcements. And——』

– President, please wait a moment. The Savage will bombard again!

『What did you say!?!』

– But, please be relieved, as it's aiming at us. Sakura, can you manage it?

– Yes, I'll spread a wide area barrier again!

Sakura turns the hand that grasped the Hundred towards the Savage.

He was wondering if the exchange was being heard by Claire.

『Kisaragi Hayato, don't tell me that you are letting Kirishima Sakura fight desuka!?!』

Such a loud voice came back.

– Umm, I'll talk about that later!

The Savage is going to fire the bombardment at any time.

This is not the moment to give an explanation.

– 《Deploying ba——》HUNDRED——

There, Sakura stopped shouting.

BOOM, a bombardment sounded, and an explosion occurred on the head of the Savage.

– Eh...?

– What...?

Sakura and Hayato turn their eyes to the point where the bombardment was

sent from. The distance is around 100 meters, but the familiar figure of a man was there.

– Fritz!

Without thinking, Hayato shouts the name of the man.

Even though he is in his civilian clothes, he can see that he deployed his armament and the Long Shooter type rifle in his arms.

– What’s up, Hayato. I’m glad that you are okay.

Fritz smiled and winked.

Behind him, there was a sports car.

The one he saw with Emilia in the fashion building.

It seems he has come as a reinforcement.

So that means—

– Of course I’m here too!

The next thing he heard is the voice of Latia.



There, Hayato notices that she's at the feet of the Savage.

Even though she was in civilian clothes and with simple armament like Fritz, Latia had deployed her Martial Arts type Hundred on her hands and feet.

The Savage recovered from the damage without a moment's delay and set her as its objective, swinging downward its big arm.

– Uh-oh!

And Latia, who dodged it by leaping horizontally, kicked the ground with a *tap* at the same time as she landed; her hair sways like a flickering fire and runs up onto the arm of the Savage while raising a loud voice, running up to the head in one go.

– If I can destroy the core with this, then I'm also a full-fledged Slayer!!

She lowered her eyebrows in frustration and moved away from the moving Savage as she landed on the ground.

Latia glares at the arm of the Savage approaching there with an upward glance,

– Such a thing, eat what I have here!

And, she hits the ground.

Then the ground shook like a wave and the Savage seemed to have lost the balance of its body since it's not attacking with its arms.

What was resonating there is the voice of the childhood friend who can trust in Hayato, and the one who came running in assistance.

– Latia, thank you for making a gap!

The owner of that voice stands on the hill—looking at the figure of Emile, Hayato was truly relieved.

Unlike the date, she tied her hair and is wearing her uniform, and around her body, of course, the Innocence type of ever-changing appearance of Hundred, *Arms Shroud*, is deployed.

Emile changed one of the deploying Hundred into a short, yet sharp-edged sword like a Falcion, and jumped towards the Savage.

– Teeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!

Shouting, the remnant line drawn by the swung downward sword drops one of the arms of the Savage onto the ground.

– One more!

Emile, who landed on the ground, threw the sword and extinguished it.

And then, she made a huge scissor-like thing with *Arms Shroud*, similar to the one she was using in the previous battle, and rushed over to the Savage.

– Latia, what’s left is the thing we discussed a while ago!

– Got it!

Shouting, Latia head towards below the objective, then stood up and launched a kick towards the body of the Savage who was ready to attack.

The Savage, as a matter of course, was unperturbed, and although can fight back with the remaining arm, Latia evades that, and as a proof that she’s doing according to plan, she, with her mouth,

– Now, Emile!

– Okay!

Putting the arm of the remaining Savage between the two widely opened blades, *Shing*, the arm falls.

While a fluorescent liquid disperses, the enemy raises something like a screaming and begins to act violently as if it was raging.

But there are no arms to raise overhead anymore.

Like having been waiting for this moment, Fritz aimed at the *shelter* and released a mass of *energy* from the rifle of his right arm.

– Eat this!

It hits the *shelter* splendidly, and creates a big dent on it,

– Yes!

And, Fritz revealed a satisfying smile. Then,

– The next is to destroy it for sure!

Followed by Latia who began to go after the Savage.

She flew high using *sense energy*, concentrating the *sense energy* on her right foot, trying to fall down with all the weight of her body while aiming at the core.

– How about this, huh!?

As a result, her leg went through the *shelter*, making a fierce destructive sound, but it didn't lead to the destruction of the core.

– Tch, I couldn't destroy it, even with a direct attack!

Latia spat out in frustration, then distorted her facial expression in an unpleasant way and separated herself from the Savage.

However, that doesn't mean that the series of attacks have ended.

– Then I'll deliver the final blow!

The shouting Emiile had no longer a scissors in her hands. She was grasping a white bow instead.

Of course, it was created by *Arms Shroud*.

For the bow being held in the left hand, she tensions the blue bowstring with *energy* and creates a blue arrow in the right hand, deciding to aim at the Savage.

However, an unusual phenomenon occurred there, and the first one who noticed that was Latia, who was near her.

– Wait a moment, Emile!

With the voice that shouted instinctively, Hayato also notices something unusual.

The core of the Savage began to emit a red light in the dark, repeating the illumination in a short and repeated way.

– ... is it going to bombard?

At first they thought so, but it didn't show any behavior of opening the head.

(What the heck does that mean?)

Of course Emilia also noticed the unusual phenomenon, but she didn't know what's happening.

But there's no doubt that something is going to happen.

(I hope I can set aim quickly to not let it shoot...)

She was feeling impatient, and that disturbs her concentration.

Her arms tremble, the center of the sighting device is hardly set at core.

Even so——the aim was finally fixed.

– Teeeeeheh!

Emile fires the blue arrow.

The trajectory seized the core with the gap of the *shelter* being destroyed.

All developed exactly as planned.

However, there was a situation that they hadn't predicted there.

– Wha...

Emilia, who just lowered the bow, is amazed.

– That's a lie, right...?

Hayato and the others are the same.

While the arrows are about to approach, the severed arms were regenerated in an instant, so their reaction was comprehensible.

– Impossible, right...?

Hayato muttered, since he saw something unbelievable.

At any rate, when thinking that a lot of insect-like things are squirming on the severed part and extend a thread-like thing in an instant, and just like the silkworms make cocoons, the Savage created an arm with the form of pincers.

The arrows of light are repelled by the arms and vanishes.

– Perhaps that's a *regenerator*?

With a trembling voice, Latia mutters.

– That seems to be the case, since it has the regeneration ability.

Hayato has already been given knowledge of the Savage in lessons of classroom lecture. The self-repair function type Savage——aka *regenerator*.

As its name suggests, it's the type that regenerates the parts that have been cut, like the tail of a lizard.

– But surely, if we destroy the core, then it won't demonstrate that ability, right...?

– That's right, because the core is accelerating the regeneration ability. Other than that, it has no difference from a normal type.

Following Latia who replied, Emilia continued.

– Then I'll try to drop its arms once again as I did a while ago. Even though the *shelter* is slowly regenerating, Hayato should be able to destroy it.

– In short, Hayato's going to finish it off?

– I want to emphasize certainty here. Latia, can you disturb the Savage as you did before? Aiming at that gap, I'll cut off its both arms again.

– Got it.

Latia nods.

– Hayato can you? Do it too?

– Umm...

Hayato points his eyes to Sakura.

Going to attack means that he has to leave her by herself.

– Hayato, I'll take care of Kirishima-san. Because I'm not suitable for close combat, I won't move from here. And although the armor is thin because of these clothes, E *barrier* can be stretched, and if something happens, I'll protect her even if it costs my life. So, you do what you ought to do.

– Exactly. Because I'll be handing over the best thing.

What he must do is to defeat the Savage.

And the best thing is, to give the finishing blow.

– Got it.

Hayato, who received the thoughts of those two, had no choice but to nod.

– Are you okay with that, Sakura?

– Mu..... Hayato, did something happen with Kirishima-san?

– Why are you saying that?

– I feel that your mood is strange.

– This is not the moment to be saying that, you know. I understood the strategy, so let's start right away, okay? We don't know what that Savage will do.

– Muuu, you are right but...

– Okay guys, cheer up coz' here I go!

While laughing at the interaction of Hayato and Emile, Fritz directed the rifle of his right arm to the Savage.

– You ready?

– Of course.

– Yeah.

– ... *okay*.

Hayato and Latia, and even though she looked disappointed, Emilia nodded in succession.

– So, let's go!

Fritz fired a shot, then another one, aiming at the *shelter* with his rifle.

Along with that, Latia started to move.

Following her, Emile also starts to move.

Speaking of the collaboration, it's fruitful and perfect than before, as Emile was quickly cutting through the arms of the Savage with scissors again created by *Arms Shroud*.

– Hayato, we'll leave the rest to you!

– Sure!

Hayato responded vigorously to Emile, runs in the same way as he did with the first one, and jumps with *Hien* loaded with *sense energy*

All he has to do is to destroy the core.

Hayato injects *sense energy* into the raised overhead *Hien*.

The red shining blade and its decorations——up to now everything goes as planned, but the fact that there are no illusions of Sakura also had its influence.

The Savage aimed at Hayato, and opened its head.

The heart of Hayato, which recognized that it was a bombardment, beat fast in a big way.

(This is——)

The usual thing that occurs when he has been on the verge of a critical situation.

He could do it even in the sham battle with Fritz, so if the ability of the Variant awakens, he'll probably not lose his consciousness now.

If that's the case, and when the N *barrier* automatically deploys, it doesn't mean that the bombardment——won't do nothing.

Because he's not wearing his Variable Jacket now.

And it looks like it's impossible to go full armament like he did until now, so Hayato couldn't make a decision as to whether he could deploy a N *barrier* under such conditions.

If he remembers correctly, the President was saying that such thing wasn't programmed in the Hundred.

So even if full armament is impossible, the N *barrier* may be deployed.... Although, of course, there's no confirmation of it.

Having said that, this is not a situation to dodge the attacks of the Savage.

Now, the only thing that he can do——the moment Hayato resolved himself to swung downwards *Hien*, he kept his self in order to not lose the consciousness due to the ability of the Variant.

– Stop!

At the same time as the sorrowful cry of Sakura jumped into his ears, an incredible thing happened.

The Savage undo its bombarding stance, and started to turn its head towards the direction of Sakura.

(It reacted to the voice of Sakura...?)

At that moment, he suddenly remembered what he was talking to Sakura at the canyon.

The fact that the children who got inoculated with the body fluids of the Savage responded to the songs of the Variant Sakura. In addition, Sakura said the songs convey people's feelings.

That is to say, her cry, saying 「Stop!」was supposed to have the intention of 「Don't bombard!」regarding the Savage.

Perhaps, the thought might have be understood by the Savage, or maybe it just reacted to the voice of Sakura.

Of course Hayato doesn't know the true meaning of it.

For a moment, he thought that the eyes of Sakura were shining in golden color.

But this is not the place to think about minor details.

He can't miss this opportunity.

— Uooooooooooooooooo———!

Deciding to destroy the core of the Savage in this gap, Hayato brandishes *Hien* in a big way.

In an instant——

A boy appears from behind the Savage.

Black hair and dark brown skin.

That boy is wearing a jet-black Variable Suit that melts in the darkness and has something like a spear in his hands.

(Who's this guy...?)

What the boy has is, of course, not just a spear.

There are blades on both ends of it, he's holding a thing like a handle in the

middle, and what he's holding from the middle is——what is called, a twin sword weapon.

— I thought that a Savage appeared, but I was able to see interesting things ——

The mysterious boy moves his mouth and jumps high, kicking the head of the Savage.

That meant he used *sense energy*——

— I'm sorry Nii-chan, but I'm gonna make it our prey!

— Wha——

In one go, the boy who approached the front of the eyes of Hayato hit with the twin blade the abdomen of Hayato who swung *Hien*.

— Kuhaa...!

The body of Hayato collapsed in the air.

— Guh!

With another blow from overhead, Hayato's body was beaten down on the ground.

— Hayato!

A cloud of dust soars violently.

Sakura rushes to the side of Hayato who collapsed on the ground in a prone position and stopped moving.

— Hayato, are you okay, Hayato!?

Sakura keeps calling him in tears, believing in the safety of Hayato who's exactly as he fell.

Her feelings were transmitted——with a twitch, the hand of Hayato moved.

— Hayato!

— I'm fine... and more importantly...

Hayato stood up, raising his body and taking *Hien* that rolled near, then looks towards the Savage.

– Eh...

There was a girl with similar skin and hair color of the boy just now.

She doesn't have a weapon in her hands, but she's wearing a Variable Suit whose fluorescent color emerges in jet-black like the boy.

And the right eye of the girl who looked back was covered with a black eyepatch...

As she looked towards Hayato, it opened automatically all the way.

– ... 《Deploying Copy》*Hundred On*.

The eye that came in sight from the other side of the eyepatch releases a shining golden color——

Subsequently, when the girl looked up at the night sky, a pillar of light extended, and a big black sword appeared, resembling *Hien* of Hayato.

The girl stares at the Savage, taking it in one of her hands and raising it overhead with her arm.

Without a moment's the Savage strikes with the pincers, but the girl who dodge it quickly leaping horizontally, then bending over and jumping like a spring, flew high in the sky.

And, pierces the core of the Savage with the tip of the sword in her hands, facing downward.

It was superb, she destroyed again the *shelter* that was in process of regeneration, but it didn't reach the core.

The tip of the sword stopped at the surface of the core and couldn't go further.

However, the girl didn't give up there——on the contrary, she didn't even distort her facial expression.

The girl just muttered two words, with a consistent lack of expression.

– ... 《Ability Unleash》*Limit Out*.

One of the eyes of the girl shone noticeably intense.

Then, the blade of the sword in her hand also glows in the same golden color, the tip is penetrating into and through the core.

Fluorescent color liquid gushes out of the core, its brightness disappeared.

The Savage fell in the sandy soil while raising a muffled voice.

– You guys, what do you think you are doing...?

Hayato asks the girl standing on the corpse of the Savage.

However, the girl never answered, and after she glanced at Hayato, she moved her eyes to the body of the Savage and swung up the sword grasped tightly in her hands.

STAB, The tip of the sword sticks into a position slightly out of the core.

Hayato thought that she removed it, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

Because the girl never showed a worried attitude due to the lack of expression, she stabs the edge of the core of the Savage with the pointed end of the sword again.

STAB. STAB. STAB. STAB.

Like tracing the circumference of the core, the girl keeps stabbing the pointed end of the sword.

STAB. STAB. STAB STAB

– Huh? What is she doing...?

Sakura, who was looking at the creepy scene, muttered while trembling.

– I don't know...

Hayato answers.

Emilia and the others are also perplexed.

Everyone was looking at the girl who was stabbing the sword against the corpse with surprised eyes.

STAB. STAB.

Every time she stabs the sword, Savage's body fluids scatter and dye her body in a fluorescent color.

– Hey, stop it! If you get covered in a lot of body fluids, you'll get infected with the virus and you'll go crazy!

–

As the voice reached her, the girl stopped moving, and tilts her head, looking with curiosity at Latia.

What are you talking about? Asks her gesture.

But she doesn't speak.

On the contrary, the girl turned her eyes to her hand, then gazed motionlessly at the sticking fluorescent color liquid——*Licks*, she licks it with her tongue.

– Wha...

Looking at the disgusting scene, Latia becomes speechless, but as the girl doesn't care about them, the girl starts to stab the sword again in the Savage.

STAB. STAB.

– Dammit! I'm telling you to stop!

If she doesn't listen, then she has no choice but to make use of force.

Latia kicked the ground and tried to approach the location of the girl, but something got in the way.

– Hey, you. Don't disturb Nesat!

Along with that voice, another girl is approaching from the front with two large rings in her hands.

Of course, that's not her normal speed.

She's using acceleration by *energy*.

Moreover, the girl threw one of the rings held in her hands towards Latia, and knocked her body against the ground.

– Kuh, what the hell are you guys...!

Latia stands up and stares at the figure of the dark brown girl who caught the ring that came back like a boomerang.

The color of the hair holding the bands on the left and right is a little brighter

compared to the boy who set an attack on Hayato and the girl who killed the Savage, but wears the same jet-black Variable Suit.

– Don't get in the way of Nesat. That's the only thing I'll say to you.

The girl with the rings declares, turning her eyes to the girl who stabs the sword in the Savage.

– Answer my question!

– What are you going to do if I say no?

Making fun of Latia, the girl laughs.

– In that case, I'll get information out of you by sheer strength!

Latia accelerated by kicking up the ground, then launched a hit to the girl of the rings.

– Ha, bring it on! With that, I'll let you say nothing, and I'll tell you nothing! And you'll be in trouble if you try to disturb Nesat again!

The girl also kicks the ground in the same way, and uses the rings to attack.

Of course the ring has an advantage, as the reach of the girl is longer.

Although she was struggling with that much, Latia continued to wait for an opportunity to come while continuously dodging the attacks with the rings, using her characteristic nimbleness.

– Aa dammit, you dare to have the nerve to move non-stop like that!?

While the girl shouts looking irritated, she greatly brandishes the rings, slashing at her.

A big gap with that much.

Latia, who jumped and dodged the attack, launches a kick to the body of the girl as she is, falling on her backside.

– Damn, I won't be defeated by the half-baked armament of yours!

As she grasps the grit of the ground while standing up in frustration, the girl picks up the ring that fell near and throws it towards Latia.

– ... uh-oh!

In an instant, Latia evaded the ring that was approaching while rotating furiously. However, when using the ring on the other hand, the girl cut at her vigorously.

– Die, you moron!

After rapidly getting closer using acceleration, the ring is approaching with a momentum that cuts the air horizontally.

Latia jumps high and attempts to dodge it while doing a backward somersault,

– ... ngah!!

Immediately after kicking the ground, dull pain was running on her back, crumbling down to her knees as she was.

Because the other ring that came back hit her back.

– Ha, stupid bastard. I was aiming for that from the beginning.

Looking at Latia who falls towards the sandy soil, the girl of the rings was showing an accomplished expression to the girl.

Then approached the side of Latia who's lying face down on the ground, and kicks her body.

– ... s-stop!

Fritz shouted looking as a demon and turned the muzzle to the girl of the rings who's trying to kick the body of Latia again.

– Too slow!

And, the girl throws the ring.

It hits magnificently the body of Fritz, he couldn't fire the bombardment.

– Dammit, but, one more time...!

However, Fritz wasn't collapsing. Once again, he tried to load *energy* into the rifle of the arm and,

– As if I'll let you do as you like!

– Wha——

The girl, who accelerated and got closer, cut at the body of Fritz with the ring

she had in her hand.

– Guah!

As his clothes are cut off from the front, Fritz is falling from the knees.

Emile, who was looking at his state, moves.

– ... Hayato, I'll deal with that girl!

He can't see the scissors she had in her hands until a while ago.

With two daggers created with *Arms Shroud*, Emile accelerates to the position of the girl.

The opposing girl of the rings readied the weapons of both hands, looking towards Emile.

– You are the next, huh? Do you think those small daggers can be a match to my 《Pair of ringed weapons》*Dio Varga*!?

The rings manipulated by the girl and Emile's daggers collide with each other, letting a high-pitched metallic sound be heard many times.

– The best thing that the lowly losers of Little Garden can do is to stop the blows like this!?

As the girl says so, in the eyes of Hayato, Emile was desperately trying to block the rings.

His body still hurts a little, but there's no mistake that this is a critical situation.

But now both Latia and Fritz have collapsed.

There's no one who can protect Sakura.

(What should I do...?)

When thinking about it, he figured out a possibility.

Hayato takes out the 《N Tranquilizer》of his coat pocket and aims at the girl of the rings.

(If I shoot at the girl with this—)

He heard that the bullets loaded in this gun have the ability to neutralize and

pierce E *barriers* and to destroy the balance of *energy*.

In that case, he may be able to stop her movement.

– I won't let you shoot Nakri!

– Kuh!

Hayato reacted to the voice on his back, and turns his line of sight towards the body.

What is visible to him is the figure of the boy who's setting an attack with a twin blade in his hand.

Hayato, who's becoming disconcerted, pulled the trigger, pointing the muzzle of the 《N Tranquilizer》to the boy.

– Don't you dare to think that I'll receive that thing so easily!

The boy stops the bullet with the twin blade and sets off an attack as he is.

– Damn!

Hayato shoots《N Tranquilizer》again, but the result is the same.

For a moment, the twin blade bent its shape, but it didn't lead to its destruction.

It looks like the maneuverability of is *energy* is that high.

If that's the case, he can't rely on the gun.

There was no choice but to stop the blows of the twin blade with *Hien*.

CLINK, fierce metallic sounds resound.

– Ha——I'm surprised that a guy like you can stop my 《Double Edge of Rebellion》*Ohrthrus Liberio*.

It was Hayato who stop the blow of the twin blade, but the boy smiles calmly.

– ... kh, what's your objective? Were you the guys who stole the *Variable Stone* from the *live* venue before!?

– If so, then what? See if you can catch us, dog of Little Garden!

The young boy shouts, bringing down the twin blade once again.

Hayato parries it again with *Hien*, but his body shakes due to the heavy attack.

(... kh, damn!)

Two times, three times in succession, the boy brings down the twin blade.

The best that Hayato can do is to parry it.

– Hayato...

Sakura is leaning in close to him, raising an uneasy voice,

– I'm sorry, I'll come down.

Immediately after she was saying so, she kept her body away.

– Hmm, pretending to be the prince, huh...? But, you are unlucky. Even if you were normally armed, a simple armament of that degree would be at its limit, you know? At any rate, I still haven't poured *sense energy* into my *Orthrus Liberio* yet!

Shudders, chill runs through the body of Hayato.

His black eyes shone golden and the blades of the weapon also shone in the same golden color.

(Don't tell me, that...)

Hayato remembered the story he heard from the president about a month ago while trying to parry the attack unfolded from the arm raised overhead. At the time of the duel with the president, his eyes shone in golden color.

The same phenomenon is happening right now——

(Impossible, this guy is also a Variant...?)

If so, then no matter how you look at it, the situation is even worse.

– ...kh!

Hayato loaded *Hien* with *sense energy* similar to *Orthrus Liberio*, and parries the twin blade.

His body shakes violently.

Hayato intends to put strength on his two legs and endure it, but the man immediately launched a kick there.

– Guuh!

Emile shouted, after seeing the body of Hayato flying backwards.

– Hayato!

– Don't look away!

The girl brings her hand forward to attack Emile once more.

– ... kuh!

Emile caught the attack of the girl at the last moment, but she was pushed by her power, and the daggers fall from her hands.

– That happens when you don't concentrate on the battle, you stupid!

Then the girl tried to flick off the body of Emile with the other ring.

Emile grinned and loosened her mouth there.

– You are the one who's looking away!

The falling dagger changed its shape to a floating battery and mercilessly shot a beam to the girl of the rings, as instructed by the brain wave of Emile.

– Wha!

The body of the girl shakes violently.

– It looks like a dagger, but it's originally a battery.

Emile vanished and threw away the dagger that she was holding in the other hand and rapidly changed to something like a stick with *Arms Shroud*, sending the body of the girl flying, then turns the pointed end of the stick towards the boy who was exchanging blows with Hayato.

– And—this one was a rifle, you know.

– ... unh.

He may have noticed the signs of light bullets that Emile fired.

The boy stretches his right hand and deploys an E *barrier*, making disappear the approaching light bullets, then glares at Emile in detail.

– ... the form of your Hundred changed? It looks like your ability seems to be

special, to the point it couldn't beat my little sister.

– What are you looking for!? Why are you attacking us!?

Emile asked, but the boy ignored her and turned his eyes towards the girl standing to the side of the corpse of the Savage.

Then, the color of his eyes return to the original black.

– Looks like nee-chan has already finished extracting the core.

–

The girl nodded as she was, in silence.

When they noticed it, the eyepatch shone in a golden color, and the sword she had disappeared from her hand.

Instead of that, she had a thing of 50cm. diameter in one hand and another of 80cm. diameter in the other hand—she was carrying two cores of the Savage.

– Okay, it's time to flee.

– Hey, wait a moment! Nesat has already finished the work. If it's the three of us, then we can destroy them in a matter of minutes and steal their Hundred. Besides, that woman has a strange voice—

The girl of the rings raises her voice towards the boy.

– Calm down, Nakri. When you do that, you'll find that reinforcements from Little Garden are getting closer.

The girl called Nakri closed her eyes—and opened them wide in surprise.

– what Krovahn is saying is completely true. A lump of *energy* is coming this way.

Saying that there's no choice if that's the case, the girl clicks her tongue.

– Alright, I'll do as Krovahn says. We were able to get two cores. And Vitaly'll get mad if we get caught here.

– Vitaly you say...?

Sakura reacts to the name Nakri mentioned. Hayato is the same.

That name is the name of the doctor who made Sakura an artificial Variant.

– Hey, you. You know Vitaly?

Nakri wrinkles up her eyebrows and stares at Sakura.

– Nakri, take it easy. Remember that we have to flee.

– Ye-yeah...

– Nee-chan, give me one of the cores.

The boy said so to the eyepatch girl, stretching his hand to Nakri*.

***TN:I guess the author meant Nesat?**

Then she threw the bigger core to the boy.

As he caught it, Krovahn, the boy, jumped high and moved to the top of the cliff.

Nesat, who carried the other core, left in silence, following him.

– Haa, you better think that you barely escaped from death in this place today!

Nakri said so, and went after Nesat who moved to the top of the cliff.

– Hey, why are you carrying the cores!?

It was Latia who shouted. Then, Nakri looked back in midair and answered as if to despise them.

– ... you really seem to not know anything, losers of Little Garden.

Leaving those words with them, the three people who wore black Variable Suits disappeared beyond the cliffs.

– ... what do we do, do we go after them?

Fritz asks while looking at the cliff where nobody is there.

– No, let them go.

It's Emile who answered, shaking her head.

– There's no point going after them, besides we are exhausted with this much.

– You are right.

Fritz it's not the only one who nods, since even the uniform that is wearing Emile is dusty and with cuts here and there.

– Hayato too, even though you finally bought your own clothes.

Emile's bashful, regretting it.

– Then we have go shopping again. At that moment, you'll be choosing them.

– ... okay

Nodding, Emile continued.

– About this matter, I'll discuss with the Prez about the rest. Even if it's about chasing them, let's leave it to the reinforcements from Little Garden.

After the battle, Hayato and the others were protected by the staff of Warslan who came to pick them up and returned to Little Garden in a large medical treatment bus.

However, only for Sakura it was different.

She joined the guard of the members of *Selections* who came as reinforcements, and went to the *live* venue.

Although she consumed *energy* deploying barriers, she insisted that she wasn't hurt and that it wasn't a problem for her.

It's because she wanted to quickly ascertain the condition of the *live* venue.

She got information from Claire indicating that the venue didn't suffer that much of a damage and that it might be repaired by the day of the *live* show.

Then, in the Student Council room where Hayato and the others, Claire and the members of the Student Council, Chris, Charlotte, and Mei Mei.

– Which reminds me, why were you guys the reinforcements?

Having finished reporting to the point where they defeated the first Savage, he remembered that he hasn't asked that yet, so Hayato asked that to Emile.

– Actually, I immediately contacted Fritz after the emergency alert rang. Hayato knew it too, that's why you happened to see it in the city and stayed nearby, right?

– Yeah, I saw you two together.

In other words, Emile got in touch with Fritz and Latia then she joined them and asked them to drive to where Hayato and Sakura are by car.

Claire sighs when hearing the conversation.

– It was the greatest miscalculation that the member of *Selections* closes to Kisaragi Hayato was Emile Crossford deshitawa. After she listened the emergency alert, despite the fact that we didn't issue any orders, she confirmed the data without permission and finally, involving classmates to head to the site — —

– But, thanks to that, the damage of the Savage was kept to a minimal, so I did well, isn't it?

– That's not the only problem, since there are a lot of problems arimasuwa. Next is, about the three people that appeared after you joined masuka. It's inevitable to keep worrying about that matter desu.

The facial expression of Claire becomes severe.

Claire seems to be very interested about the three people.

After that, Hayato and the others started talking about the mysterious three Slayers.

– They're probably 《Poachers》*Hunters* desuwane.

As Hayato and company finished talking, Claire mutters with a worried expression.

– *Hunters*? Why is that?

Fritz only offered doubts, and Hayato didn't know anything about the hunters.

That also applies to Emile and Latia.

The four people are waiting eagerly for the reply of Claire and the others.

– Unlike the Slayers that belong to a country or a Private Military Company like Warslan Company, they belong to those organizations that aren't approved by the United Nations or are a group of unaffiliated guys.

It's Erika who answered.

– What's left is, I remembered, I was telling to Kisaragi Hayato that in fact there were three Savage who had been missing during the previous raid. The rest of them have been discovered earlier in the wilderness as corpses. And they looked like the cores were gouged out-

– That means that those guys did it?

– If they are the poachers, then that possibility is high, don't you think?

Erika replied to the question of Latia, correcting the glasses that slid with her fingertips.

– But, why steal the cores? I can understand if those guys are members of an organization that isn't approved by the UN or are unaffiliated Slayers that went after our *Variable Stones* but...

– That's right, Emile. Because the cores of the Savage have almost the same shape of the molecular structure of the *Variable Stones*.

– Wait, Charlotte. This conversation isn't for general students— —

– But, if it becomes like that, the conversation will be inevitable. All members that are here are already involved in this, you know? Or do you say that this isn't related to children, just like your father or elder brother?

– That's...

Claire falters.

– Then, I will let you continue.

– Umm, that means that the core of the Savage can be processed as a Hundred?

It was Fritz who presented a question before others.

– Yes, you are correct. The technology has already been established. Therefore, the fight for them is actually taking place among member nations as well.

– Wait a moment. Why does scrambles for it happen then? I thought the Hundred are for the sake of subjugating Savage. If the member nations are

between themselves, shouldn't then the UN manage and distribute them properly like they do with the *Variable Stones*?

– Without a doubt, the Hundred were created for the sake of the subjugation of the Savage. However, we can understand when seeing Kirishima Sakura that the technology isn't used for that purpose now.

That is to say, like in Kirishima Sakura's *live*, that the *Variable Stone* is used for purposes other than armaments—except for the Savage subjugation.

– Its usage method will be expanded from now on and there's a great possibility that it will penetrate daily life. Therefore, hereafter, the monetary value of Savage's core will rise and there's a possibility that it will be treated as gold or platinum. Even if it has been decided that the UN will manage it, there are many countries and organizations that want to secure as much as possible now. If the Savage are exterminated from the universe, and there's not even one of them on the earth, then there's also the possibility that it will become a rare material, which will make it harder to acquire than it is now.

– Just because the core of the Savage might be used in our everyday lives...

It's somewhat disgusting...

Latia was showing an expression on her face as if she wants to give her opinion.

– What are you saying? Even the dyes of the clothes you are wearing are taken from insects, and the fur is taken from the animals, you know? The petroleum as well, since is by nature, the corpse of an animal. It's no different from that.

– I guess you are right...

Nevertheless, Latia is showing an unsatisfied expression on her face.

Hayato also has the same feeling.

– Anyway, if mankind can achieve further evolution using the core of the Savage or *Variable Stones*, just like mankind uses the fire, then mankind will make use of it, and their monetary value will increase as well. At any rate, if you think what you can make, then you can make Hundred as well.

- Then does that mean that our Hundred are made of the core of the Savage?
- Please relieve, all of your Hundred are *original*, okay?
- Is that so...?

When listening to Charlotte's answer, Latia shows a relieved look.

– One last thing. I believe that of course you know this as well but, the Hundred technology progresses every day, and the power of one Slayer has become more like an aircraft rather than a tank. This will also change the *power balance* of the countries.

– ... basically, the Hundred and the Slayers will become tools of war between people.

His eyes narrowed, Fritz spilled with a serious look.

– In the past, there were periods when mankind was thinking that if common enemies appeared, then the world should become one. However, that didn't happen in reality, the disputes between nations, including the disputes over who has the hegemony after the annihilation of the Savage, aimed at the collapse of the *power balance*.

– In any case, this conversation is still confidential. Anyway, it is good to know that everyone was fine desuwa.

At the same time Claire says so, her facial expression became affable.

– One more thing, Kisaragi Hayato. You don't have to keep doing the escort duty of Kirishima Sakura.

– ... yes.

He anticipated that order.

Even though there are two more days till the *live*, but because Hayato's *sense energy* was considerably consumed due to the resistance of today, he thought that it wouldn't be possible to guard her when something happened.

Besides, there's the thing about Kirishima Sakura's 『voice』.

The three people seemed to be interested in the 『voice』 of Sakura who stopped the movement of the Savage.

There may be a possibility of planning to kidnap Sakura, and also probably aiming at the *Variable Stone* of the *live* venue.

Because he can't deal with those situations in this state.

And, about the『voice』of Sakura, it was decided that Charlotte will investigate it with Mei Mei and Souffle Clearrail.

The same goes for the identity of the three individuals.

Regarding the two points, since neither Sakura nor Souffle are there, the conversation didn't turn into a deep one.

The relation between the fact that Sakura is a Variant and her『voice』and the relation between the three individuals and Dr. Vitaly are worrisome to Hayato, but there's no way he can speak of those things in front of everyone, so he kept silent.

That would be the same for Charlotte.

– Well then, we are breaking up for today desuwa. It was nonsensical for an operation, but everyone was safe desu. However, Fritz Grantz, Latia Saint-Émillion. Despite being incited by Emile Crossford, having entered the battlefield without permission is an equivalent act of abandoning your life desu. We were worried, so reflect on it.

– Ugh...

For a moment, it was Latia who makes her eyes shine when her name is called by Claire, but as soon as she heard those words, she felt dispirited.

Looking at them, Claire unintentionally smiled,

– However, since it was a response of a state of emergency, there won't be punishment.

– Thank you very much.

Following Fritz who bowed his head when saying so, Latia also bowed her head.

– ... thank you very much.

– Following them, Emile Crossford will receive 30% less salary as a member of

Selections for the period of one month masu.

– Huh? Why only me!?

– Because you did something on your own accord, and because there was also the possibility that the lives of two people could be lost desu. Reflect on that.

– Okay...

And then Emile gazed at Latia, who was sighing towards the carpet on the floor and asked her a question.

– Aren't you glad that there's no punishment for you?

– After all, she was expecting to be invited to *Selections*. That's why she tried hard on combating with the Savage.

Fritz said while smiling, and placed his hand on the head of Latia.

– Shut up!

And, Latia flares up at Fritz, baring her teeth vigorously.

Looking at the situation, Claire smiled as if she was amazed,

– As for your entry to *Selections*, I will consider them at a later date masuwa.

– Eh...

Latia stopped moving, she had a sort of taken aback facial expression.

– Of course, I know that your reactions are high, as well as the results of your recent sham battles masu. On top of that, you fought the Savage with simple armament. That should be praised desuwa. Depending on the decision of 《LÍZA》, it's a safe bet that before long, you will join *Selections*, don't you agree? OF course, you will be granted a dedicated, and also customizable Hundred masuwa.

The expression of Latia who heard those words turned bright in the twinkling of an eye.

– Awesome!

Even if Fritz is stroking her head again, she doesn't flare up at him like she did

a few seconds ago.

On the contrary, while showing a really happy face, 『Yeah』, she nodded, showing an exceptional smile.

Chapter 5: Live *Reunion* Parting

Two days passed since the night of the second Savage raid on the Zwei Islands, and the day of the *live* event finally came.

Although the damage of the second raid was minor if seen throughout the island, the *live* stage suffered considerable damage by the bombardment of the Savage, and due to the several barriers deployed, the *energy* of Kirishima Sakura decreased considerably.

When thinking about it, the usual would be to take a whole week to recover.

Although the current situation of holding the *live* itself is worrying to that extent, 「We will absolutely satisfy the people who came and the *live* won't be outdone by the things so far, and we will do the *live* even if we have to change the production and the program」and as result of the striking fervent speech of Sakura, no one including the fans makes an objection, and if Sakura says that she's going to do it, it's thanks to Souffle and each one of the people involved who worked hard from the beginning to make the *live* able to reach the holding.

Meaning that, on the evening of the very same day, and two hours before the starting time of the *live*, Kisaragi Hayato, along with Emile, were visiting the hospital where his little sister was hospitalized.

– Take care, Karen-chan. It's fine that you can enjoy yourself to the utmost today, but don't push yourself too much. I understand that it's a difficult request but, can you do it?

The woman is a little older than Hayato and Emilia, and wore white nursing clothes to see off a girl in wheelchair at the exit and entrance of the hospital.

She's Kashiwagi Mihal, the nurse in charge of Kisaragi Karen, the little sister of Hayato.

Hayato thought that she was going to the live with Karen too, but since today is her night shift, she seems to be doing care-taking. In all honesty, it's a shame because that's a place where he can be charmed by her broad-mindedness and voluptuous bust, and by that sexy dark mole on her cheek.

– I won't cause trouble to Nii-san.

Karen replies, and Mihal shows a satisfying smile,

– If you understand, then that's fine. Take care.

– Because I will enjoy myself for Mihal too.

Karen operates the wheelchair herself and moves to the bus stop in front of the hospital.

Looking at that figure, 「She really understood, yes?」Mihal whispered into Hayato's ear, who had a wry smile.

– In case anything happened to Karen-chan, please contact me immediately.

– Yes, of course.

The contact address of the hospital and the phone number of the PDA of Mihal have already been registered.

– What is Nii-san talking about to Mihal? The bus is arriving already.

– Yeah, now I go.

Answering, Hayato lowered his head to Mihal.

– Well then, I'm going.

– Yes, please have a great time too, Onii-san.

– Hayato is always flirting...

– ... wha!

Emile walked towards the bus, following Hayato who walks towards the bus stop, and trampled down his feet firmly as she whispered in a dark voice.

– Uwaa, this is the first time for Karen seeing such a vast wilderness!

Hayato, Emile and Karen who got on the bus from the hospital, got off the bus in the middle of bridge connecting Little Garden and *Westland* of the Zwei Islands, walked through the inspection and changed to a bus to head to the *live* venue in the east area.

Because this was a special temporary bus, the interior of the bus is full.

By the way there is no stipulation for general citizens, but the Slayers belonging to Warslan Company and the martial arts department students have been notified from the Student Council yesterday to participate wearing their uniforms.

Although they are performing a perfect security, and aside from the gang of three, they don't know what will happen, so they are doing this in case they have to cope with an emergency.

It may not be a Variable Suit per se, but it has fibers mixed with *Variable Stone*, though it's small for a uniform.

Therefore, it's possible to see here and there people wearing their uniforms in the bus.

Both Hayato and Emile, of course, wore uniforms designated by the martial arts department.

– Oh, there's something like a dog-chan over there!

Karen, who was watching outside from the bus window shouted with vigor, like rising up from the wheelchair. Hayato and Emilia also turn their eyes to outside of the window.

– That's not a dog, it's a dingo. It's a kind of wolf.

– Hee, is that so? Karen has just become smarter.

In this way, seeing Emile and Karen talking, Hayato was at ease, and feeling a little glad.

It may be because there will be only a little of time for the two people after this.

And then, the bus arrived at the *live* venue.

According to the guide person, Hayato moves Karen's wheelchair to the seat prepared for them.

– Wow, it's really close to the stage.

The seat they had prepared wasn't in the front, it was in the front row that is to the left-hand corner as seen from the stands.

On the contrary, the man-day guide says that the space is only for acquaintances and people concerned of Sakura, such as Hayato, Emilia and Karen and the members of the Student Council.

It was divided from other spectators by cords and was taken into consideration that they wouldn't end colliding from behind.

I will have to thank Sakura and Souffle-san afterwards.

(Hmm, I'll have to go to the dressing room now isn't it...?)

Last night, he had an e-mail from Sakura, saying that he has to come to the dressing room alone before the *live*.

– Emile, can I entrust Karen to you for a moment?

– Yeah, I don't mind but, what is it?

Following such Emile, Karen looked up at Hayato with an uneasy aspect.

– Nii-san, are you going somewhere?

– There's a place I have go to for a couple of minutes. I'll be back soon, so stay here for a bit together with Emile, okay?

Saying that, and stroking the hair of Karen, Hayato left the spot.

※ ※ ※

– I guess it's here.

Hayato goes through a number of security checks and arrives in front of a door with a label where 『Guest: Sakura Kirishima』was written on it.

– Err, it's Kisragi Hayato.

KNOCK KNOCK, what came visible to the eyes of Hayato when he opened door while knocking, was the figure of Sakura who was changing to her Variable Suit and the figure of Souffle Clearrail helping her with that.

Moreover, Sakura has just taken off her coat, and she's in a state where white skin and two bulges on her chest and pink protrusions at their tips can be confirmed.

– I-I'm sorry!

Becoming flustered, Hayato closed the door and jumped out of the room.

(No way, she was changing clothes...)

The excitement of his heart won't stop with that excessive development.

These days have been nothing but this— —and as he was keenly aware of his unluckiness, the door opened.

It's Souffle Clearrail who shows her face from there.

– I'm sorry for keeping you waiting, the change of clothes has ended.

Responding to those words, Hayato steps into the dressing room again.

What met his eyes is the appearance of Sakura wearing her Variable Suit.

It's slightly different from the one he saw on the *cybernet* before, so it's surely a special order for this *live*.

– I'm sorry, I was wrong for suddenly opening the door a few moments ago.

The first thing that Hayato does is apologize.

– It's me who called you, so don't worry about it. And it's my fault since I didn't close it with the key.

Sakura who was bashful and had her cheeks dyed red, and was looking to the floor, raised her head and continued her words.

– More importantly, do you feel better?

– The healing of my injuries is fast. My *energy* is substantially recovered too.

– I see, as expected of a Variant.

– How about the side of Sakura? I heard that you consumed a lot of *energy*...

– Although I'm not perfect, since I'm an artificial, I'm a Variant too. So I'm almost recovered. The *live* became slightly different from the original plan, but the stage was repaired in time thanks to the people who did their best, so I'll be singing with my best effort today and return the favor to them.

Saying that, Sakura smiled.

– ... umm, now that you mention it, thank you for our space. It's a pretty easy-to-see place and it looks like you also considered our safety, that really helped

us.

– That was originally prepared as a space for VIP, so it's nothing. Don't you agree, Souffle?

– Yes, so please don't worry about it.

– It helps us if you say so. What's left is, the matter of an autograph shikishi* but—

***TN: Shikishi (色紙) is a square fancy cardboard used for autographs, poetry, etc.**

– Ah, I'll do that later.

– Is something wrong?

– I'd like to talk with Karen-chan for a while and I considered that I'd like to hand it with my hand if I can. So, let's meet again after the *live* concludes. That moment can be at the airport of Zwei Island...

– Are you leaving this island before the day is over from that airport?

– There's a recording of a music program that also serves as a promotion for my new songs in Liberia, so I can't miss that chance no matter what. In the *live* this time, I cause trouble to Souffle on the financial side, so I'm not in a condition where it's possible to say "let's cancel it". Actually, I wanted to talk a lot with Hayato and Karen-chan until the morning of tomorrow when Little Garden will be leaving the dock, but this is all I can do.

– Then it will be at the airport. I think that Karen will surely be pleased.

– It's fine if that's the case.... Finally, thanks for coming back. I was able to calm my nervousness a lot seeing Hayato.

– You sure? You don't look like that.

– Shut up, even I get nervous before the *live*! And it's my first time doing it in front of 100.000 spectators, and it has changed slightly from what I was preparing...

– Ah, I'm sorry. I guess you are right. Then, do your best. I'm sorry for troubling you, so I'll go back. Karen is waiting for me.

– Hayato.

Her voice was hanging on the back of Hayato as he put his hand on the door, trying to leave the dressing room.*****

– ... what is it?

– It's just that there's a present for Hayato at the encore of the *live*, so I'm looking forward to it

※ ※ ※

When he arrived at the *live* venue the sky which was still a madder red was already dark when he left the dressing room.

– Oh, if it isn't Hayato.

On the way back to the place of Karen and Emile, a voice called him out, and Hayato noticed Fritz. Naturally, Latia is also there, next to him. Of course, both of them are in their uniforms.

– You guys are also in the VIP space, right?

– Yeah, that's what I heard of.

– If so, com here.

Thus, Latia and Fritz also took up positions near Hayato and the others.

– Oh, she's the little sister of Hayato. She's very cute, unlike you, don't you agree?

When Fritz arrived at the VIP space he tried to stroke the head of Karen while cracking a joke, but *Hiii!*, she got frightened and her body, as a matter of course, paralyzes.

– Hey, don't scare her, you idiot!

– Latia trampled down the feet of Fritz to discipline him, and 「Ouch!」Fritz sprung.

– What are you doing? It's part of the human nature to stroke cute thinkgs when looking at them, right...?

– Good grief, are you a little girl...?

Latia sighs visibly disgusted.

Then, when Hayato introduces the two to Karen, the important points before the performance begin to play from the speaker.

5 minutes till the starting of the *live*.

– Oh, that’s right, I forgot something important.

That said, Karen picked out heart-shaped lights while searching with rustling sounds inside of the bag beside her knee.

– Oh! Of course, we also have them.

After that, Latia took out two lights of the same shape from the bag and handed one of them to Fritz.

– Why do you also have something like that?

– They were being sold outside the venue, so I bought them. Speaking of the *live* of Kirishima Sakura, these are appropriate, you know.

As they were being told so, certainly everyone have heart-shaped lights.

– Nii-san is really ignorant of the ways of the world, don’t you agree...?

Because Karen sighed as if she was amazed, Hayato also received a light.

– Emile-san, take one please.

– Ah, thank you.

Emile also receives a light from Karen.

– Where on earth did you buy these things...?

Hayato turned ON the light switch, and a pink light turned on.

– These were bought by Mihal yesterday. And you can change the color with the switch next to it.

As she said, when pressing the switch next to it, the color of the light changes to green, yellow and white.

– Oh, it’s true.

– Well, during the *live*, the colors will change automatically according to the

songs.

Fritz says that it seems to be able to operate with the radio waves flying on the venue.

– Hee, is that so...?

Hayato says, being impressed.

Speaking of that, he remembered everyone in the live video he watched the other day were waving the same color light.

– Ah, it looks like it's beginning.

The sound of the buzzer to announce the starting sounds, and the illumination of the stage starts to fade.

Karen turned her eyes full of expectations towards the stage.

The ones who came there were the members of the Student Council, commencing with Claire, along with Chris, Charlotte and Mei Mei.

– Just right in time deshitawane.

As she said so, the group of Claire takes up positions alongside the group of Hayato, and a cheerful melody began to sound from the speakers installed on both ends of the stage, blowing away the sadness of the collapsed city in one go.

A great cheer rises from the audience seating.

Kirishima Sakura made her entry while the floor of the stage opened and the audience seats shone with colorful heart-shaped lights.

– 《Arrival of the Diva》*HUNDRED ON!*

She raised her red ore high, and deployed her own Hundred——《Spinning Story of the Fairy》*Fairy Fairy Tale*.

Beautiful emerald green wings appear on her back that continue releasing dazzling particles.

Next, the illumination and the lights of Hayato and the others turn green and the top of the stage moves to a different world, like the depths of a tranquil forest in the west.

– Now, let’s go everyone! We are going to have fun today!

In the middle of the even more excited cheering, Sakura jumps towards the audience seating and starts singing.

(She really seems to be okay...)

To tell the truth, he was pretty worried, but the singing Sakura is a lively and cute fairy, flying above the heads of the spectators.

She wasn’t pretending to be tough when she said she was fine, but her physical condition is really coming back.

Karen, who was sitting next to him in the wheelchair, was chasing with a gaze of envy the appearance of such Sakura.

– Amazing, Nii-san. Sakura-san is incredibly cool!

As the first song finishes, Karen claps her hands, mixed with excitement.

And after that, naturally, the *live* continues.

She understood that something had occurred there.

The stage of Krishima Sakura is now the door to shift from 『not here, somewhere』which is mankind confronting the crisis that continues every day to 『now, here』.

She’s pulling the spectators to another world with the power of singing and the ability of the Hundred.

And yet, in her songs, there seems to be affirmations of what is living『now, here』, and the strength to think they can live in this 『now, here』from now on.

It’s some kind of religious miracle.

That’s the reason why she’s called *Oriental Wizard* Diva and her Hundred is called 《Spinning Story of the Fairy》*Fairy Fairy Tale*.

Two hours have passed since the *live* started, during which Sakura has been singing enthusiastically over 20 songs.

– Well then, the next is the last song——

When Sakura began to talk and went back to the Variable Suit state, there’s a

great number of voices that want to hear more songs.

However, she fade-out as the prelude of the song was played.

It began to echo the melody and sounds similar to the ethnic music of Empire Yamato.

—《Arrival of the Diva》*Hundred On*—

At the same time she murmurs, the stage changes to the spring scenery of Empire Yamato, and the costume of Sakura changes to a shrine maiden.

Sakura began singing her own song while being adorned with many petals of cherry blossoms that fell as if dancing, with a big cherry tree behind her.

And finally, the demise of the *live* makes its visit.

As the song finished, the stage became dark and Sakura disappeared. However, the spectators begin to raise the voice of encore, they want to taste this happy time more and more. Karen was shouting, just like the spectators.

— Come on, everybody-san, rise your voice!

— O-okay...

Karen encouraging him, while being shy, Hayato started to encore too.

Not only Emile, but Fritz and Latia were also raising their voices.

Around two minutes later...

The lights of the stage turned on, Sakura remained unchanged in her shrine maiden costume, and the hall was enveloped again by great cheers.

— Everyone, thank you for the encore. But, can you keep quiet for a moment please?

The venue that received those words got quiet in an instant. Everyone is listening to the words that *Oriental Wizard* is saying.

— I will sing an encore now, a song that today is the first time I am going to sing it *live*——on the contrary, it's a song I just made yesterday. So, it's not in the best shape...

Ooh! The spectators got excited.

However, when Sakura continued talking, they went quiet again.

– This is probably going to be the last song of the next album. I was continuously thinking about the song and its composition. I was very, very worried. But, I finally did it yesterday.

Saying so, Sakura takes a breath, turns towards the VIP seats, looking at the eyes of Hayato and the others.

– The raid of the Savage that occurred a month ago in this island. And the raid two days ago. I am dedicating this song to those who fought at that time and protected us.

– ... the people who protected us she said? Nii-san, is she talking about you?

Karen noticed Sakura's line of sight, and asks the question to Hayato.

– I guess, so...

Karen was taken aback hearing that reply.

– Perhaps Nii-san was fighting in the raid of the day before yesterday—

– Ah, I'm sorry for that...

He apologized because he promised before that he would inform her properly before entering a resistance.



– But, how should I put it, I went out and I got involved with it. A lot of things

happened. And it was so fast...

– I'm going to listen to that story carefully afterwards...

Karen partly puffed up her cheeks, and turns towards him with a pointed gaze.

– Well then, I will sing——

The lyrics put together by her singing voice and that were being carried by a gentle melody flew out, soaking deeply into the chest of Hayato and the other Slayers——as well as their lovers, family members and friends.

(I get it... this is... the present that Sakura was saying, huh...)

Hayato was listening to the lyrics, and realized that there was a Hayato there.

(Hmm? Wait a moment... this is...)

No matter how one looks at it, this song is a *love song*. While Hayato was bewildered, with lots of tears running down, doing big claps——and together with excited cheering, the *live* welcomed its real end.

※ ※ ※

After the *live*, Hayato, Karen, and Emile, Fritz and Latia, the members of the Student Council, and lastly, Charlotte and Mei Mei, headed in four cars respectively to the airport in the Zwei Islands.

A car stopped by Hayato and company who arrived earlier and waited for the arrival of Sakura. The one being transported in it is Kirishima Sakura, who changed clothes and finished greetings to the people involved at the venue.

– Hayato, what do you think about the last present?

– ... I was surprised that you could create that song in a day.

Hayato decided to answer that for now.

– Yup, it was a good song, don't you think?

– Yeah, when I was listening to it, I felt very relaxed somehow, or rather, it deeply moved me emotionally, but it was amazing.

While smiling, he answers.

– I-I see... thank you. I'm really happy when Hayato tells me that.

Sakura smiles back at him, she was shy.

– Oh, that's right. Apart from that, I have to fulfill my promise properly.
Souffle, the shikishi and a pen please.

– Yeah, yeah.

Sakura received the shikishi and the pen from Souffle who got off from the car, then goes towards the front of Karen who's sitting on the wheelchair and starts running the pen on the shikishi.

– Please take it, Karen-chan. I properly wrote 《如月カレンちゃんへ》(To Kisaragi Karen-chan).

– Tha-thank you very much, Sakura-san!

Karen took a look at the received autographed shikishi, and then at the same time, she stared in wonder.

There, was written 『久方ぶりの再会の夜に』(for the night of the reunion of a long time ago)—in addition to the letters “To Kisaragi Karen-chan”, the autograph of Kirishima Sakura.

– What's this? What does...

Karen murmurs, while looking up at Sakura.

– This is the answer to that.

Sakura starts singing that song.

The song that they sang together around 10 years ago.

Karen is often singing it, it's her favorite song.

– Sakura-san, why are you singing...?

– This song was created by my mom. And, it was me who taught you this song.

– Eh? You are lying...

Karen's eyes become rounder.

– It's not a lie

Sakura smiled and continued her words.

– I was surprised too when I realized while talking about it with Hayato. But, this song is the proof, isn't it? I met Hayato and Karen-chan and we spent a night. And, thanks to that night, I knew the enjoyment of singing. Thanks to that, I became the singer I'm now. I appreciate that.

Saying that, Sakura presented her right hand to Karen.

– It's been a while, and thank you, Karen-chan.

– Ah, yes... thank you.

Karen grabs her hand with her right hand like Sakura and shake hands.

– if you like, would you sing this song with me again?

– Eh, that's.... For me, to be singing together with Sakura-san...

– You were quite skillful at that time, you know. I thought you had a very beautiful voice. So, let's do it together, what do you say?

And Sakura starts to sing.

Although confused, Karen started to sing, following after her.

– Hey, Hayato. What does she mean with 10 years ago?

Standing next to him, Emile asks a question.

– I'll tell you about it later.

– Honestly, I'm very bothered by it but.... At the time of the encore, Kirishima-san was singing something...

Emile mutters and complains.

And then, the song ended.

– You are the same as that time, Karen-chan. Your voice is pretty and skillful as expected.

– ... yo-you think so?

– Yup, unlike Hayato.

When hearing the words of Sakura, the memory of 10 years ago is brought

back.

The two of them completely made fun of Hayato.

– Hey, it's not worth to worry about me, you know? In the first place, I'm not singing now.

– Then Hayato will sing the next too?

– That's right, Nii-san will also sing.

– No, I pass...

In any case, he decided to not sing.

– You see? You can't sing properly after all.

Of course, Hayato couldn't deny that thing about him.

Karen is laughing, looking at him.

(Well, if I can see Karen laugh in front of other people like this, then it's fine...)

Hayato thought so.

– Well, it's almost time.

Souffle muttered, looking at the clock, and walked towards the location of Claire.

– Claire-san. For the security of today and everything else, thank you very much.

– Likewise, thank you very much for inviting us to the *live* masu. The residents of Little Garden, and us the Slayers, are very pleased mashitawa. I thank you from the bottom of my heart as the Student Council President of Little Garden masu.

Saying that, Claire continues giving her thanks.

– It is I who should say so, and I am sorry for the various inconveniences. From now on and together with Warslan Company, we look forward to working with you masuwa.

Yes, the guard of Sakura will be done by the Slayers belonging to Warslan Company in the future. There's also the matter where her voice affected the

Savage, so she judged that there was a possibility that the gang of three could be after Sakura and the staff.

– What’s left, is...

– Hmm? Do you need something from me?

Souffle starts to walk to the side of Charlotte.

– Charlotte, I’ll leave to you the matter of the investigation of the three guys.

– I know. I will also perform a perfect and proper analysis of her voice.

– I’m sorry for causing you trouble again.

– Huuh? I can’t help but think this is also destiny. In the first place, I chose that road. Besides, I’m happy.

– Eh...?

– I was watching the *live*, and I felt the accomplishment that the technology that we created and cultivated together were useful for mankind. Honestly, I was so moved that I got goosebumps.

– ... impossible, to be told such a thing from you.

Tears spilled from the eyes of Souffle who heard those words.

– You can’t endure the happiness, right?

– Yes, as you said.

Souffle and Charlotte shake hands.

Apparently, the helicopter had its preparations ready.

The pilot calls out Souffle.

– Sakura, I know you are reluctant to part, but let’s go.

– Wait a little more.

Sakura said that to Souffle, who walks towards the helicopter, and took out the PDA from her pocket in front of Karen.

– Karen-chan, let’s exchange contacts.

– ... eh, it’s that alright?

Sakura blinks continuously her eyelids, being surprised*.

*TN: Again. Maybe the author meant Karen?

– Yup, I'll be happy if we could get along from now on. Besides, I want to ask you a lot of things.

– Things you want me to ask?

– Yeah, that's right. I want to ask things.

Saying that, Sakura turns her eyes to Hayato.

– ... don't blow unnecessary things into Karen.

– I know ♪.

And Sakura, who exchanged contact address with Karen, changes the direction of her body to Hayato.

– Well then, Hayato. It was a short time but, thank you.

Sakura presents her hand towards Hayato.

– Yeah, likewise——

And, Sakura grasps the hand that Hayato presented and draws him towards herself in one go.

– Eh...?

Hayato's body approaches Sakura in an instant.

To his cheek, Sakura gave it a *chuu*, a kiss.

– Wha...!

– You!!

Both Emile and Claire are opening their eyes wide, and raise their voices.

– Eh, eeeh!... Sakura-san, a ki-kiss, to Nii-san...?

Understanding can't catch up with what happened in front of his eyes.

Karen was showing a perplexed expression on her face, wondering what was that.

Immediately after that, Sakura who separated her lips, slipping out a smile,

started running towards the helicopter with a light step.

In response to Hayato who was dumbfounded seeing off her figure, Sakura, who ran up the ramp, was waving her hands and looking back just before getting on the helicopter,

– *Bye bye*, Hayato! Let's meet again. Nope, I'm absolutely sure that I'll see you again soon!

Epilogue

– Hayato, Hayato...

A voice reaches his ears, making him regain his consciousness from sleep.

At the same time, he felt a soft weight that is warm on his body.

– Again, doing as you please, Emilia!

– Kyaah!?

Raising up his body with a jump, a small scream came up.

That voice doesn't belong to Emilia...

– Eh...?

Reflected in his eyes is the figure of Kirishima Sakura who was staring in wonder, possibly surprised, on the bed.

Exposing her shoulders in the same way she did when she met Hayato for the first time, she's wearing lovely clothes with frills on the skirt.

– Why is Sakura here...?

Hayato said while rubbing his eyes.

There's no doubt that this place is in the military section of Little Garden, and that this is his room of the male dorm, and yet, Kirishima Sakura is in front of his eyes....

– Maybe I'm in a dream?

He's pinching his cheek.

– ... ouch.

Looking at that figure, Sakura breathed with a sigh, as if she was exasperated.

– What are you doing, geez...

– Because it's strange that Kirishima Sakura is here in Little Garden.

Moreover, it isn't currently docking in the island, shore nor anywhere.

Little Garden left the dock from the Zwei Islands already and is cruising in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

– For your information, it’s not weird at all. Because I’m *Oriental Wizard* Kirishima Sakura, the woman who makes the impossible possible ♪.

Saying it cutely, Sakura puffed up with pride.

– That means you came to Little Garden without permission, isn’t it?

– ...*shock*!

– I hit the mark, right?

Saying that, Hayato stares at Sakura.

– Y-you know that you can’t land in Little Garden without permission. I sent a message wirelessly to the air traffic controller. I said “if you let me land, I’ll give your younger sister an autograph”....

– Is it fine for the ATC of this ship to...

Nonetheless, precisely because Hayato is weak to her sister, he understands the feelings of that person.

– ... err, wait a moment. You don’t have permission from Souffle-san nor the President, hmm? Then how did you get in this room—

– Grantz-san opened for me.

– Fritz? How, the key of me room...?

And when he was saying that, he remembered that the security key of this room is the same data that he made.

(I have to change it soon, I haven’t had privacy at all...) Hayato sighs deeply.

– Other than that, Hayato, who’s that Emilia?

– Huh...?

– You were saying “Emilia” just now. So, I guess that’s the name of a girl but...

Being told that, Hayato spies out his memories.

Certainly, he feels that he put out that name.

(Hmm, what to do...?)

Of course, he can't talk about Emile Crossford, alias Emilia Hermit.

– It's the name of the girl who was living with me at the institution. Like Sakura was doing a while ago, she frequently woke me up by getting on top of me.

– ... that's not a lie?

Although he was trying to mislead her while smiling. Sakura turns a doubtful look at him.

– It's true!

Hayato asserted and continued.

– I answered the question of Sakura, so I'll ask questions to Sakura this time. The first is, why is that you came to Little Garden?

– Hayato, it seems you are dodging the subject.

– Never mind that and answer.

– ... I came to see Hayato. That's the reason why I came to Little Garden.

Sakura answers, though she doesn't appear to be convinced.

– To me, you say...?

BA-THUMP, his heart beat fast.

– You just came expressly here to see me?

– Yeah, that's right. Until yesterday, I had to shut myself in the studio of Liberia, and when I finally finished work, I called the pilot of the private jet and requested to ask Little Garden. There's a gift for Hayato too.

– ... a gift?

– Yup, where's the PDA of Hayato?

– While saying so, Sakura takes out her PDA from her pocket.

– It's there but...

When looking at the PDA connected to the electrical power connector on the

headboard of the bed, Sakura crawled over the bed and handed it to Hayato.

– Then, I'll send you a data now.

Saying that, she starts to operate her PDA.

– And... it's done. When the reception screen opens, insert a four-digit authentication code. The number is 『9312』.

Immediately, 『Data received from Sakura-san』is displayed on the terminal screen.

This is the reception screen.

There was also a numeric entry form in it.

– 『9312』and...

When he enters the numbers with the software keyboard displayed on the screen exactly as he was said, the reception of the file starts.

And 10 seconds later.

*PIRORIN**, a sound sounds, and the screen displayed the letters『Transfer completed』and the OK button was displayed.

*TN: I'm pretty sure that this SFX doesn't have a translation.

– That's my gift. Open it.

– This is...

When he pushed the OK button, a picture of Sakura appeared on the display, his facial expression was tinged with anxiety.

The background is from the hills of Zwei Island.

– That's the thumbnail image of my new song.

– Wow!

When Hayato noticed that Sakura, who was moving her body on his bed, and approached her face from the side and looked into the PDA, he was surprised by that that he took distance trying to jump up.

– ... what's with that reaction?

– Well, I was surprised because the distance was close...

– Hurry up and touch the thumbnail with your finger.

He touches it with his fingertip as he was told.

– No way... lewd Hayato...

– Wh-why is that...?

Hayato is confused, being glared at with scornful eyes.

– You just touched my boobs.

– No, Sakura told me to touch it, isn't it!?

– But I haven't told you to touch my boobs. You did it because you wanted it...

*

***TN: The latter part was written with this literal translation: Absolutely a matter of subconsciousness...**

– No, not at all!

– If you want to touch them, then do it directly.

Sakura pouted her lips.

– No, because a thing like that, hmm...

A melody slowly starts to play from the PDA, and the singing voice of Sakura can be heard.

That song sounded familiar to Hayato.

– This...

– That's the song I sang at the encore. It was just recorded last week, having a fresh mix just completed yesterday. I wanted this to be listened by Hayato as soon as possible, so I've done this.

– Still, you could've done this with an e-mail...

– But I said that I wanted to see Hayato, isn't it!? More than that, listen to the song calmly. At that time, it had only one chorus, but this time it's a full song. I wrote the lyrics and put my body and soul into it.

Hayato, for a second time, listens to the music without moving.

– After a short time, Sakura opened her mouth.

– ...during the *live*, I said that I created this song inspired by the Slayers who protected us, but I really created it when thinking about Hayato, I wanted you to understand that.

There's no way he could say that he didn't understand her.

He remembers being told that it was a gift for him clearly in the dressing room before the *live*.

Furthermore, unlike the most, the second lyric is a clear love song towards a man.

While noticing it, Hayato's chest was astir.

– Say, Hayato.... Since I got separated from Hayato, I continued flying around the world thanks to work. During that time, every minute of every day, I was always thinking about Hayato. Holding and settling the PDA on the bed, Sakura approaches him again and looks up at his face.

– Hey, not too close...

– Nope.

Hayato's suggestion was discarded with a single word, and Sakura continued.

– When I first asked Hayato to get married, I wasn't serious enough. But now I'm serious. I'm an Idol of everyone, but I think it's nice to become me when I'm only with Hayato, on private. I want to give the half of me to Hayato.

– Well, that's a good joke but...

– I'm not joking. I'll show you the proof.

Sakura said that with a serious expression and pushed the body of Hayato onto the bed as he was.

– Uwaa!?

Hayato screamed and fell to the bed.

It's in a state where Sakura is on top of him.

– Hayato, this is my seriousness.

The distance between their lips approaches until is 5 centimeters.

And then, the door of the room is suddenly opened.

– So this is where you are, trespasser! Wha, what are you guys doing...!?

Who came into the room was Claire Harvey, the president of Little Garden.

Speaking of which, he remembers this kind of thing happened before.

The situation that this has become resembled the one with Emilia.

– Why is the President in my room with such a timing...?

– Kyaah!?

Hayato stands up with enough momentum to shake off Sakura who's on top of his body and asks Claire.

– It's because I received a message from Souffle Clearrail that Kirishima Sakura could have headed to Little Garden desuwa!

Resolutely saying so, Claire pointed with her right index finger to Sakura.

– Kirishima Sakura, even if you are a client of Warslan Company, your selfish invasion into Little Garden is a felony desu. I will have to restrain you immediately masuwa.

– No, it's not illegal. I got permission from the administration department properly.

– After all, I'm sure you inveigled them by giving them an autograph, yes?

– WHA, how did you know that!?

– I can imagine you doing that masu. Whatever, if you don't get my approval, then it's illegal. I will be getting you out and away masuwayo.

– If that's the case, Claire Harvey. Make me a student of the martial arts department.

– ... what?

Naturally, Claire showed a taken aback-like expression on her face.

– Didn't you hear me, Claire Harvey? Incorporate me into the martial arts department of Little Garden. I have already got permission from Warslan HQ and I have submitted the necessary documents. Only thing that remains is your signature.

– Wait a moment, why are you going with this masunoyo!?

– So I can stay here without problems, don't you think? And this won't be trespassing as well.

– Even though you are a Slayer, you can't generate things like weapons in the first place, am I correct? That's why I can't permit it as well as to take the examination for the martial arts department masenwayo.

– But, "my voice" has some kind of effect to the Savage, isn't it? And I think it's like a very effective weapon.

– Kuh...

She assessed that perhaps she was completely right.

Claire warps her facial expression in frustration.

– Besides, although I'm a student, I know that there are some students in the martial arts department who have already worked internships on site. Then, I can continue my singer activities and I believe that if I spend my vacation in Little Garden, then the guard labor of Warslan will be reduced, right? And if that doesn't work, then please make Hayato my exclusive bodyguard.

– What are you talking about? Kisaragi Hayato is still a first-year student. Intern starts from third year and he has plenty of things to learn here yet masuwa! Therefore, I won't allow it masen. That also goes for your admission desuwa!

– It can't be helped. If that's the case, then have Hayato quit the martial arts department and have him become my exclusive bodyguard.

– Why am I going to do that!?

– Why would I do that desuka!?

Hayato and Claire's voice overlapped.

– Why you say? So I can hire Hayato directly. I'll pay 10 times more salary than Warslan. On the contrary, I'll take care of him for the rest of our lives. What do you think, Hayato?

– Even if you tell me what do I think...

Although he's not worried about money, because of the treatment of his little sister, there's the thing with Emilia, and he feels that he wants to save a lot of people by fighting the Savage with his own abilities.

Because of that, Hayato was about to attempt to refuse that.

When the door of the room opened again.

– Huh? Why is the Prez here....? Moreover Hayato, what's with that appearance...?

Emile glares at Hayato with half-opened eyes.

At any rate, Hayato who was getting up as he is, with an appearance of no more than undershirt and underpants, it was expected for him to be like that since Claire and Sakura, who originally shouldn't be here, are in the room.

– I-I was chasing after Kirishima Sakura who trespassed into Little Garden and crept in the room of Kisaragi Hayato—ah...

Saying that much, Claire noticed something.

– More importantly, why do you have the key of this room...? Huh? You haven't rewritten the data yet masennone!?

– Ah, you got me.

Ahaha, Emile laughs.

– Emile crossford, you broke the promise masuwayo!

– Leaving that aside, the problem now is Kirishima-san. Hayato, since you are like that, what kind of things did you do with Kirishima-san?

– No, there's profound reason for this...

– Yeah, the reason is a secret, it's something between Hayato and me, and you are not allowed to know it.

Saying so, Sakura came back to the bed and stuck to the body of Hayato perfectly.

– Hey, stop it! This kind of situation it's not a laughing matter, you know!?

– Hee, a secret, huh... So, I wonder if you could tell me too. I'm very interested...

Emile's words were without intonation.

It looks like she's doing that to suppress her anger.

Hayato's back muscles shivers with cold, because of the eerie fear contained in those words.

– Because it's a secret, it's a secret. Right, Hayato?

Sakura laughs with an *Ehe*, gluing her body even more.

Because of that, the facial expression of Emile stiffened more and more.

– Ahaha, I see..... Yeah, Hayato. We are men of the same age. So, I really want to get into the secret of girls. Then, for the sake of reference for the future, let me listen to it with full details... aha, aha, hahahaha...

Emile who has a right about-face while saying so, tries to go out and away from the room.

If she stayed here any longer, she judged that she couldn't bear that she's a woman.

A hardened smile was sticking to her face.

Thereupon, Claire opened her mouth.

– Anyway Kirishima Sakura, hurry up and get away from Kisaragi Hayato!

Claire, who approached Sakura, pulled her clothes and tried to separate her from Hayato.

– Wait, what are you doing!

– What, you say? In the first place, this dorm is the male dorm desuwayo. In other words, no female admission. That's why hurry up and get out masuwayo!

– Yeah, that's right. It's no good for women to enter this dorm!

Emile suddenly turns around her body towards Claire and Sakura.

– So Prez, quickly leave this men’s dorm together with that woman. If the two of you keep fighting over this, there would be strange rumors about Hayato and it will be difficult for him to keep living in Little Garden.

– How dare you to set yourself aside from this situation...!

– What’s that about my situation?

FUFUN, Emile behaves like a spoiled child.

It seems that Claire is trying to say that she’s a woman in front of Sakura, but in this situation, she doesn’t know who’s going to step on a land mine.

With that much, Hayato proposes while his cheeks have a cramp.

– Umm, for the time being, why don’t all of you leave from my room?

– No way!

– Nope.

– No desuwa!

The voices of the three people gathered.

– Listen up you guys, all of you, leave!

Early afternoon of Sunday.

A little more than a month after leaving the Zwei Islands, Little Garden was sailing over the Pacific Ocean near Mauna Kea Island, located 20 degrees north and 155 degrees west, and that is part of the Liberian territory.

There are no clouds in the sky, it’s blue and clear.

Most of the students and residents of such a day will be enjoying it doing shopping, doing exercise as the sweat floats on their foreheads, etcetera, while receiving the sunshine that shines and dazzles from above their heads.

However, the captain, the queen, Claire Harvey, was walking in a narrow corridor having only a width of about one person, that relies on small lightning installed near underfoot.

What she finally reached and that is in front of her was a tightly closed thick

door, where a plate is placed on it and has《STAFF ONLY, DO NOT ENTER》KEEP OUT written on it.

When she put the PDA on the scanner device installed near her, the numbers from 0 to 9, the OK button——and the ELASE button are suspended.

Without hesitation, Claire hit a ten-digit code with her fingertips and pressed the OK button.

The letters 『Authentication OK』appear on the display of the scanner device, and the doors opens...

The dark room that spreads in front of her is the same as the hallway.

Still, it seems that it has a circular hole-like shape in the center, there are many cables coming out from the wall that are connected to a large cylindrical shape similar to a capsule filled with something like a fluorescent shining water.

Inside of it, the figure of a girl similar to an elementary school student that held her knees can be seen.

Blonde hair and white skin——a girl whose characteristics resembled Claire.
— Liza...

Claire put her hand on the capsule, shut her eyes, and called for the girl who doesn't move. Then the walls and ceiling of the room shone gently red, but Claire didn't show surprise.

She continued staring her with lovely eyes, and yet, like clinging to the capsule.

Then, the opening sound of the door resounded.

— ——who is it!?

Claire turned back and instantly removed the safety device of the gun——《N Tranquilizer》that pulled out from her chest, and putting the finger on the trigger, she pointed towards the door.

— I'm sorry for getting in the way of the private moment of the sisters.

As she said so, Claire lowers the muzzle, looking at the figure of a white coat that held a candy with a stick in her mouth, raising her hands wholeheartedly.

– Charlotte Dimandius, what are you doing here—

– I was looking for you. I wanted to tell you a secret. Just the two of us—no, let's have a talk, the three of us, okay?

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